

Reading on the Waves

A selection of stories for families to read along with the radio



Canada

code | Promoting every child's right to read

FARM RADIO INTERNATIONAL  RADIOS RURALES INTERNATIONALES



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Our Family; Many Familie; Bring Blocks; I Love My Family; Do You Want to Make Friends?; What Makes a Friend?; Friends Can Be Different; May I Play?; Football, Stay Healthy; Catch Me!; Water for the Classroom; All about Bees; Bees are Builders; Sharks; Grandma Makes Banana Cake; Life in the Village; See the People Go; Weather; When You Grow Up; Women and Men; What Do You Do?; Sarah, the Reporter; How Many Chairs?; My Family Week; Family Riddles; Meals of the Day; A New Cook-Stove; Getting Your Uniform; Zippy Zippers; First Day of School; A Hole in the Bucket; Fruit Treats; So Many Things to See and Do!; Tina's Quest, Bernadette Kimokai; Where We Work; Sharks; Pygmy Hippopotamus; Morning; Count and Eat; Fishing;

How Monkey Got His Tail Back, retold by Charles Temple; *Bisi the Detective*, Jacqueline Leigh/PEN-Sierra Leone; *Anansi and the Yam Hills*, retold by Michael Auld and Susan LaBella; *Animal Homes* Rainny Brito; *Spider Loves a Friend*, adapted from Jealous Anansi, a traditional Ghanaian folktale © African Storybook Initiative, Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0; *Time to Bathe*, Gii-Hne S. Russell (originally published by Reading-Liberia); *Bintu and Bubbly*, adapted from a story by Sorit Gupto, © Pratham Books 2012, Creative Commons: Attribution 3.0; *Why Dogs Run After Vehicles*, Alimamy Kargbo; *Monkey and Shark*, retold by Moses Kainwo.

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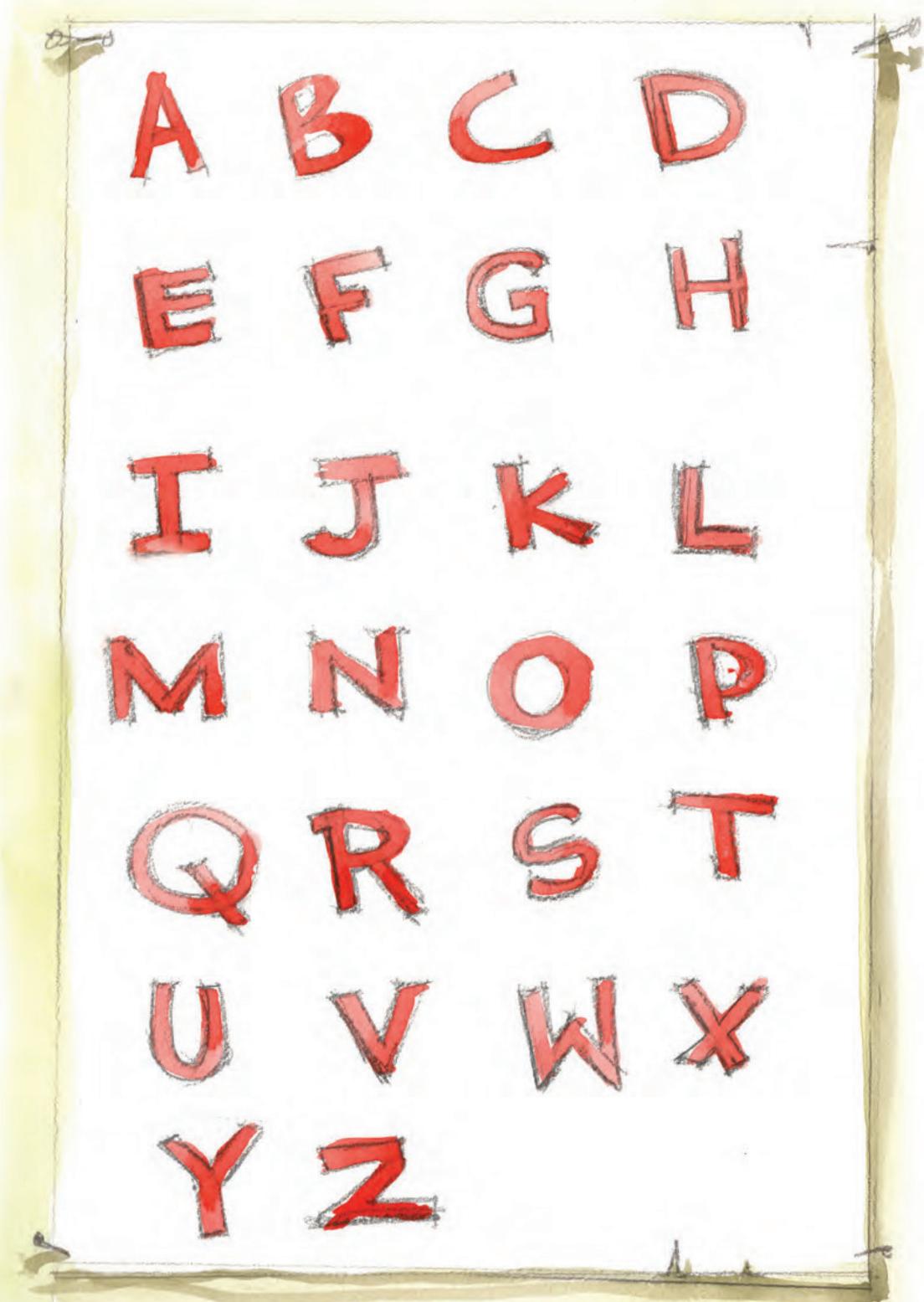
CHAPTER 1: WELCOME

Welcome to Reading on the Waves.

Over the next 13 weeks we are going to meet you every day. We will share stories, songs, poems, and games.

Listen and read along with your family – your parents, your sisters and brothers, your cousins. Everyone, old and young will find something to enjoy.

The Alphabet



Bintu And Bubbly

By Sorit Gupto

Bintu loves to play with butterflies. She loves to play with paper boats and to make sandcastles.



When Bintu went back home, her mother asked her to clean up. Bintu said, “No, I hate soap!”

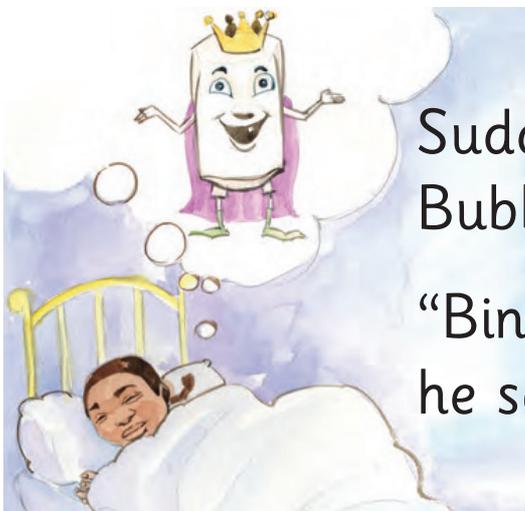




One night, she had a dream. In her dream, germs were all around her compound. They were attacking her!

The germs chased Bintu. She ran for her life!

She screamed, “Help! Help!”

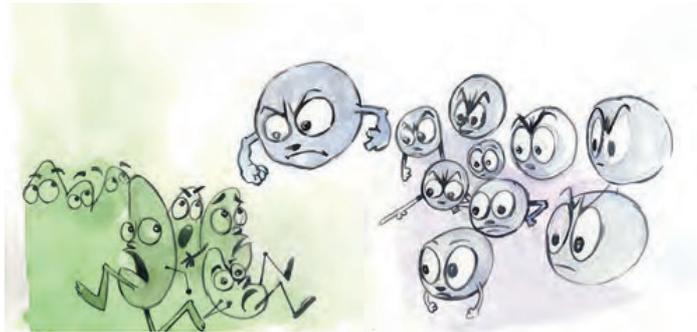


Suddenly, The Soap King Bubbly appeared.

“Bintu, don’t be afraid,” he said.

The Soap King ordered his army of bubbles. “Go attack the germs!”

The army of bubbles chased the germs away.



Since then, Bintu likes to use soap. She washes her hands often, she brushes her teeth, and washes herself clean.



Remember to wash your hands:

After riding the bus,

When you enter a building,

When you leave a building,

After playing outside,

After touching animals,

After using the toilet,

After you sneeze or cough,

Before eating food,

Before going to bed.

Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth unless you wash your hands first.

Wear masks when outside in public.

Sing this song as you wash your hands.

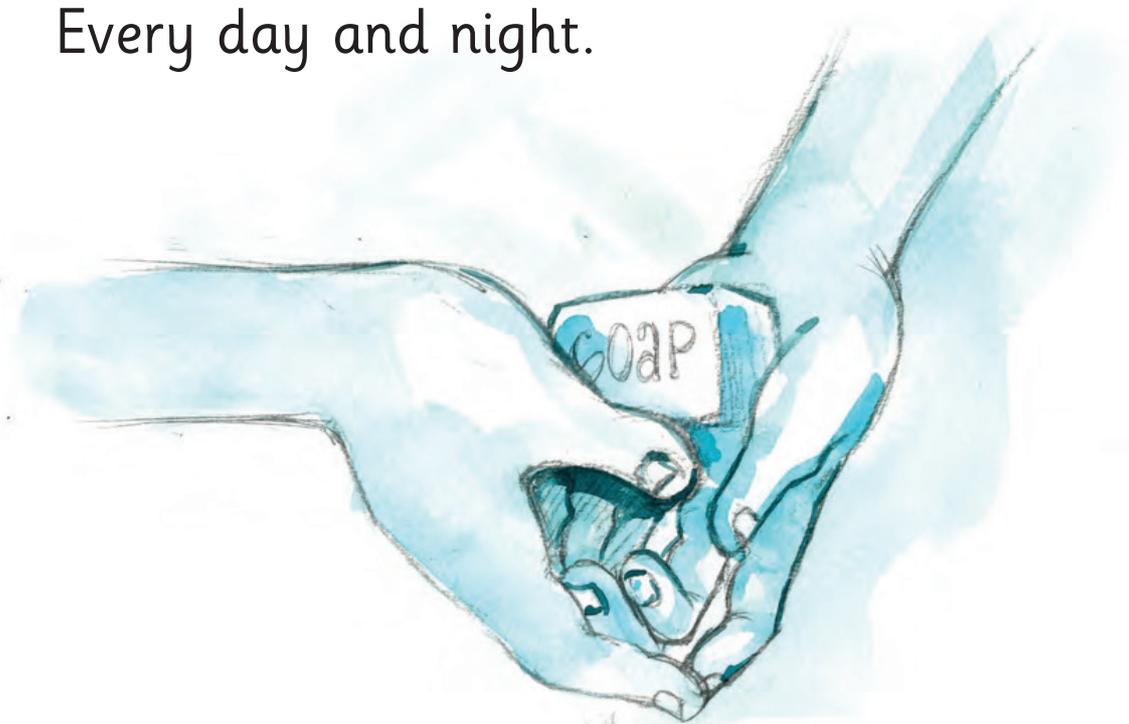
Sing to the tune "This Is The Way We Go To School"

This is the way we wash our hands,
Wash our hands,
Wash our hands.

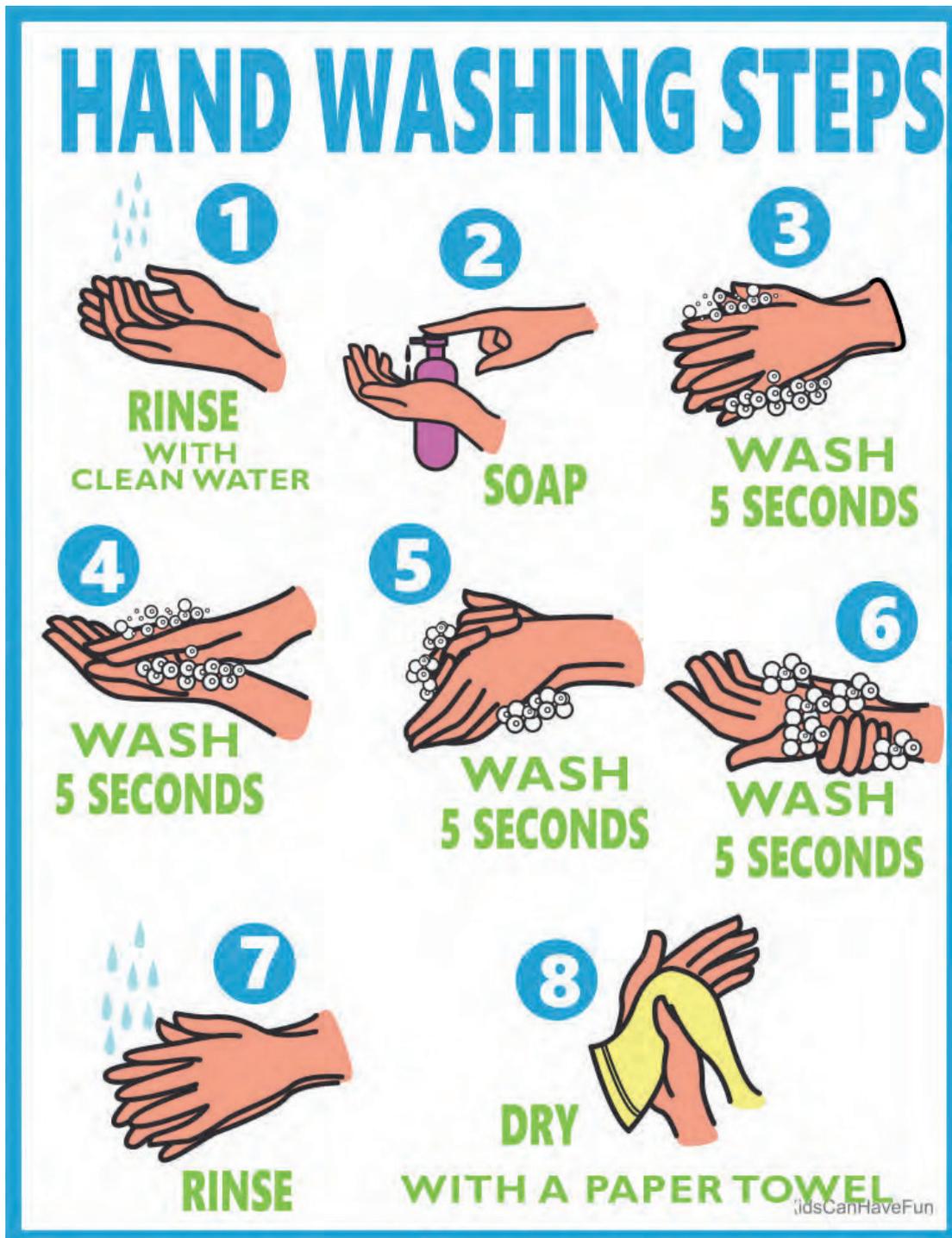
This is the way we wash our hands
Every night and day.

This is the way we wash our hands,
Wash our hands,
Wash our hands.

This is the way we wash our hands
Every day and night.



Follow these 8 steps to wash your hands.

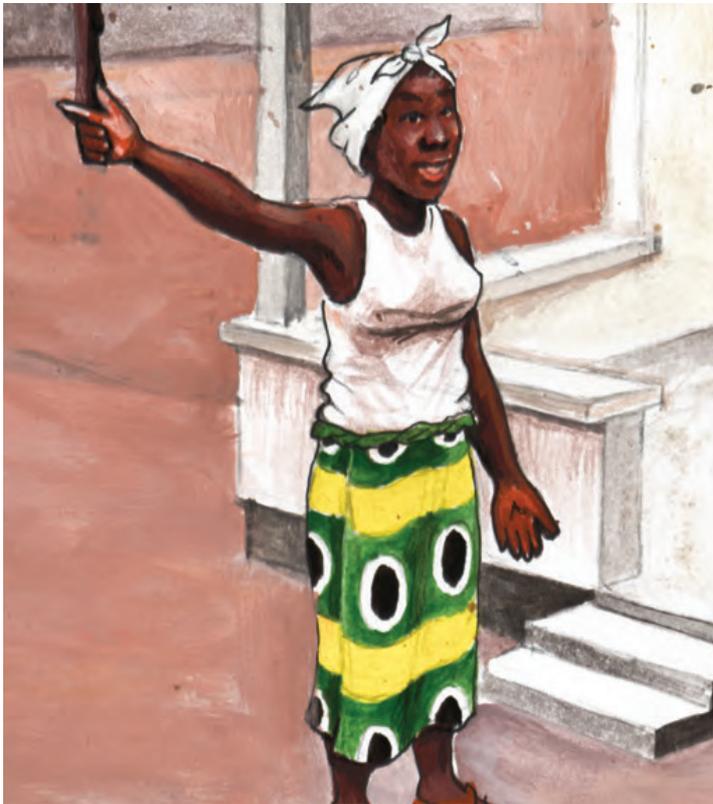


Time To Bathe

By Gii-Hne S. Russell

Akini was playing in the sand.

Mama carried a bucket of water to the bathing place.



“It’s time to bathe, Akini,” Mama said.

But Akini did not want to bathe with cold water.

“I’m coming, Mama,” said Akini. “Let me find my slippers.”

“Did you find your slippers, Akini?” Mama called.

“Yes, Mama,” Akini said.

“It’s time to bathe,” Mama called.

“I’m coming, Mama,” Akini said. “Let me find my towel.”

Akini looked and looked for his towel.
But it was right on the line.

“Did you find your towel, Akini?” Mama called.

“Yes, Mama,” Akini said.

“It’s time to bathe,” Mama called.

“I’m coming, Mama,” Akini said. “Let me find the soap.”

Akini looked and looked for the soap.
But it was right in the soap dish.

“Did you find the soap, Akini?” Mama called.



Yes, Mama,” Akini said.

“It’s time to bathe,” Mama called.

“I’m coming, Mama. Let me find the brush.” Akini looked and looked for the brush. But it was right on the table.

“Did you find the brush, Akini?” Mama called.



“Yes, Mama,” Akini said.

“It’s time to bathe,” Mama called.

“I’m coming, Mama,” Akini said.

“Let me find my... the...um... bucket!”

“Akini!” Mama cried. “Here is the

bucket. It’s time to bathe. Now! Or the water will get cold.”

“It will get cold?” Akini asked with surprise.

Akini took his towel, the soap and the brush. He ran to the bucket of water. He took off his clothes and threw them aside.

Akini put the towel into the water.

“It is still hot!” he said with a smile.

He lifted the towel to his head.

“Aaah,” he said as the water ran down his face .

Akini took the soap. It smelled like a ripe mango.

“Are you bathing, Akini?” Mama called.

“Yes, Mama.”

Akini rubbed his soapy hands together and blew big bubbles.

“Bathing is fun!”



Sarah Stays Home, Part 1

A Covid-19 story

Hello, dear readers!

My name is Sarah. I am 5 years old. I live with my mother and my brother, Abu.

My brother Abu is in fifth grade. He makes beautiful drawings for me!

My mother sells fruit in the market.

Before leaving the house, my mother puts on a face mask. It is made of cloth, and it covers her mouth and nose.

When she puts it on, my mother looks like someone else. That makes me laugh!

Mama says that the mask will protect her and other people from Covid-19 – a type of corona virus.



Today, when I woke up, I wanted to run and play with my friends.

My brother Abu said, “Not today Sarah, you cannot leave the house, because of the Covid-19 virus. Even I can’t go to school this semester because of the virus!”

I asked my brother, “Abu, what is a corona virus, or Covid-19?”

Abu said, “I will make a drawing for you,” and he took out his paper and colored pencils.

I was happy because I really like it when Abu draws for me.



Abu drew a strange monster. It was round with many horns coming out of it.

The drawing scared me a bit. “It looks like a monster,” I said, with a bit of fear.

Abu gave me a hug.

Then he said, “Sarah, a virus is very, very small. It is so tiny that we can’t see it. It is little, but if it gets inside of a person, they will get sick.”

“How sick?” I asked Abu.

Abu explained, “With the Covid-19 virus, the person gets a fever and a cough.”

“I don’t like that!” I said to Abu. “How does a virus get into a person?”

Abu answered me. “When the sick person coughs or sneezes, the coronavirus jumps out of the person’s mouth.” If you are close to the person, you can breathe the virus into yourself. Or, if you touch a place where the virus fell out of the sick person’s mouth, and then touch your face, you can get it.”

I asked Abu, “How can we fight it, if we can’t see it?”



“The doctors are learning more about Covid-19 virus so we can find a way to fight it,” said Abu. “But until they find a cure or a vaccine, we have to try to keep our neighbors, friends, parents and grandparents healthy.

“Tell me what to do,” I said to Abu.

“Here is good advice from doctors,”
said Abu.

- > Wash your hands often with soap and clean water. Wash them every time you touch things that other people touch.
- > Cough and sneeze into your elbow, not into your hand. That way your hands stay clean.
- > Try not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- > Just wave to people instead of shaking hands or hugging. Smile and wave!
- > Don't go into crowded places and don't come too close to people.

- > When you see that someone is coughing and sneezing and has a fever, stay far away.
- > Finally, when you go among people, wear a mask, like Mama does.



“I think I can do those things,” I said to Abu.

“Hey!” said Abu. “Go and get me your jump rope.”

I rushed to get it. I thought Abu want to play. Instead he had one more lesson for me.

Abu said, “Let me show you something. Sarah, take one end of the rope and I’ll take the other. Let’s stretch it between us. See? When we leave the house, we must keep ourselves away from other people at a distance similar of this rope.”

I imagined me and my friends, walking and playing with the jump rope between us. It was funny to imagine.

“Okay,” said Abu. “Since you and I live in the same house, we can play together.”

Abu and I played with the jump rope until Mama came home from the market.



We will hear more about Sarah and Abu in chapter 4, in three weeks.

CHAPTER 2: MY FAMILY

This week we are going to hear and read about the people who are in our families.

Some families are large.

Some families are small.

But I love my family best of all!

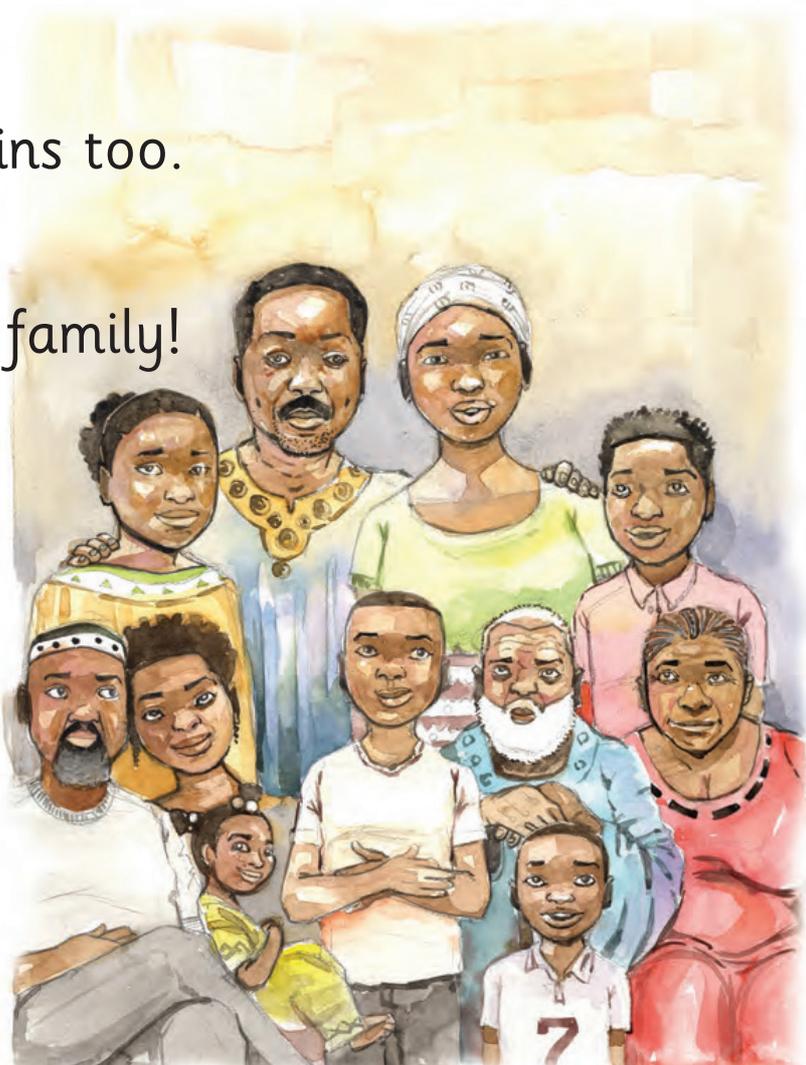


Our Family

Mother,
father,
sister,
brother.
We are a family.

Granny,
grandpa,
uncle,
aunt,
and cousins too.

All of us,
we are a family!



My Family's Week

On Monday, we do laundry.



On Tuesday, we go to the market.

On Wednesday, we go fishing.



On Thursday, we chop wood.

On Friday, we clean the house.



On Saturday, I play.

On Sunday, I get ready for school.



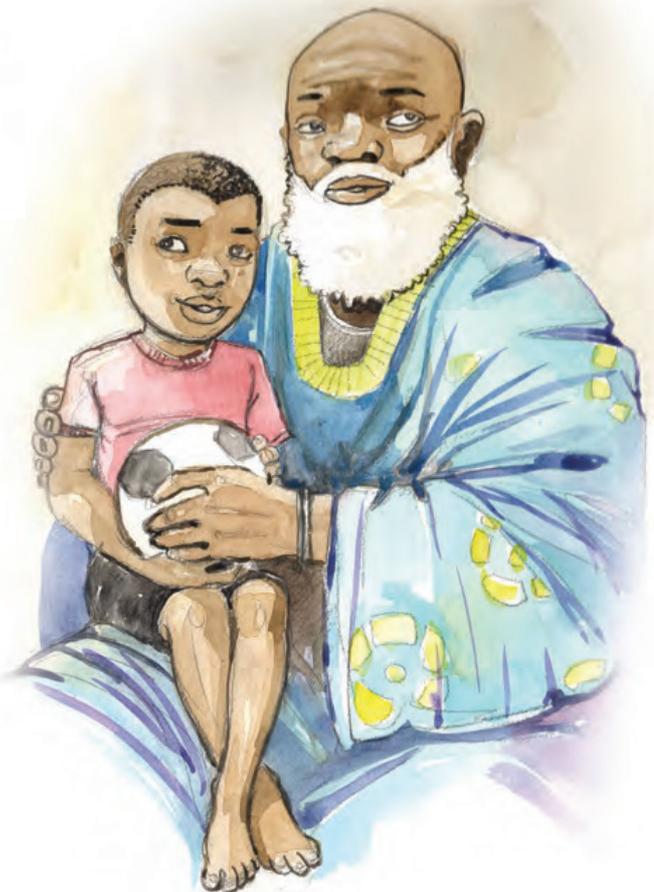
We go to school every day, except the weekend.

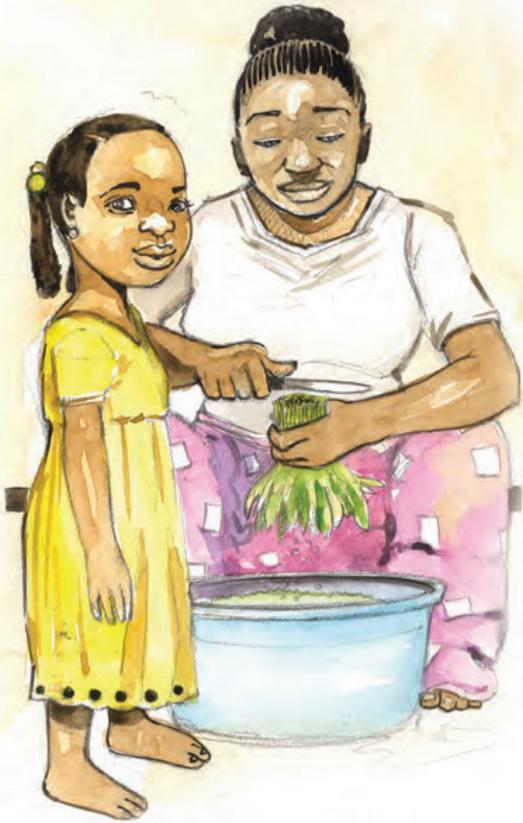
Many Families



Alice lives with
Mama Finda.

Willy lives with
Papa Tamba.





Bintu lives with
Auntie Sia.

Ballah lives with
Granny Kumba.



Family Riddles

She is my grandma's daughter, but she is not my mother.

Whose sister is she?

What is she to me?



My mother's brother has a daughter.

Whose cousin is she?

Who is my mother's brother
to me?

He is my parents' grandson, but he is not
my brother.

Whose child is he?

What is he to my father?



Spider Loses A Friend

Adapted from the story "Jealous Anansi"

Spider and Rabbit were friends.

But Spider wanted Rabbit's crops.

One day Spider took over Rabbit's farm.

"This farm is mine!" he shouted, and
Spider chased Rabbit away.



Spider took Rabbit's crops to market. He sold all but some maize. He got a lot of money.

Spider walked home with a basket on his head. The money and the maize were in the basket.

But then it started to rain and Spider ran into a hole to stay dry.

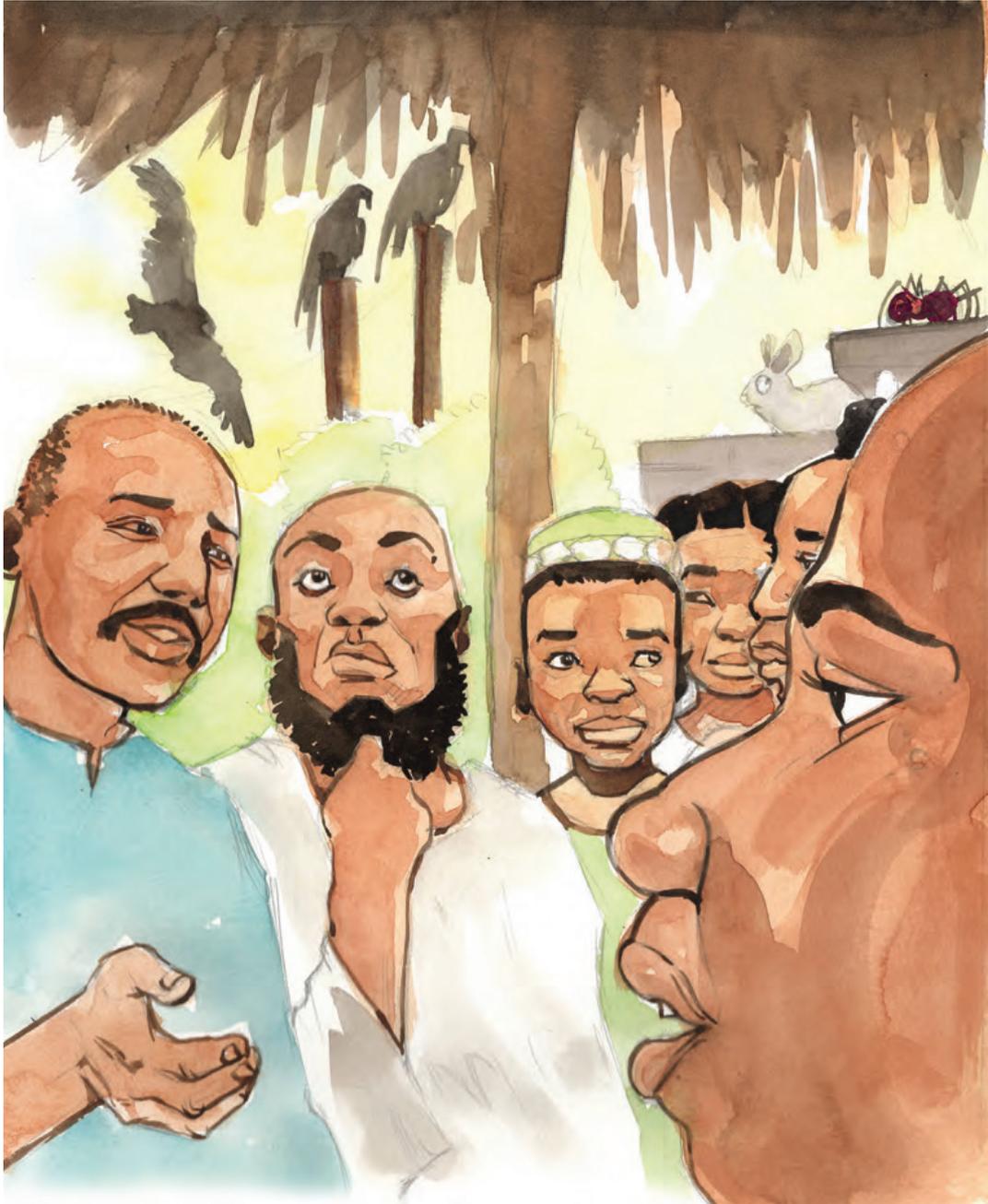
Vulture saw Spider's basket. He spread his wings and covered the basket.

"This basket is mine," said Vulture.

Spider came out of the hole. "No, it is mine!" shouted Spider.

Vulture said, "I found money and I found maize. They are mine."

Spider went to the chief and the elders. The elders took time to say who was right.



At last they said, “Vulture is not right. Spider is not right. The basket belongs to Rabbit.”

Rabbit took the basket. She went back to her farm. Rabbit was happy.

Spider went back to his home. He had nothing. He was sad.

Now Spider has no money,
and no friends



CHAPTER 3: COUNTING

This week is all about numbers. Knowing your numbers from one to ten will help us build a house, host a party, eat some cake and solve a water problem for students in a classroom. It will also keep you safe from the trickster Anansi!

1

3

2

9

7

8

4

5

6

10

Bring Blocks!

Papa and Mama are making a house.

“Bring blocks!” says Papa.

“How many blocks?” asks Sia.

“10 blocks,” says Mama.

Sia brings 2.

Abu brings 2.

Bintu brings 2.

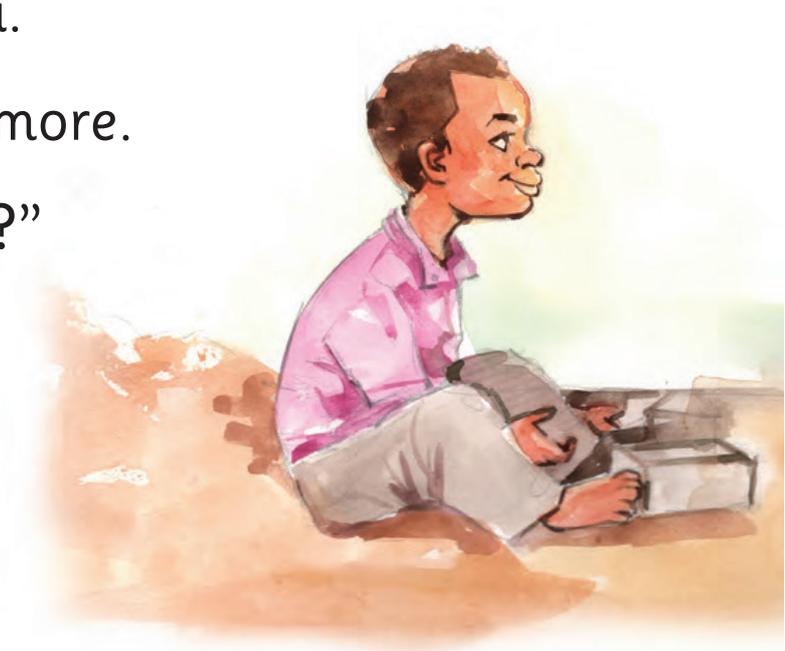
Kona brings 2.

“Is that enough?” asks Sia.

“No,” says Papa.

David brings 1 more.

“Is that enough?”
asks Sia.





“No,” says Mama.

Aske brings 1 more.

“Is that enough?”
asks Sia.

“Yes!” says Mama.

“Thank you!” says Papa.



How Many Chairs?

“Alhajie, our friends are coming over. Will you help me?” asked Mama.

“Yes, Mama, who is coming?”



“Mama Paye,
Mama King,
Mama Kanu,
Mama Karnga,
and Mama Gogra.

We have three chairs, but we will need enough chairs for everyone. Please go next door to Mama Sam and borrow some chairs,” asked Mama.

Alhajie went next door and he thought, “How many chairs do we need?”

Can you tell Alhajie how many chairs?





Grandma Makes Banana Cake

Grandma had a big new oven. “I will make banana cake today,” she said.

“Good!” said Augusta. “We love banana cake.”

“Come back tonight,” said Grandma.

That night, Grandma heard,
Knock, knock!

Grandma opened the door. There stood Augusta, Sahr, Abu, and Sallieu.

“Is the banana cake ready?” asked Augusta.

“Yes, it is. Come in,” said Grandma.

Then she shouted to Grandpa, “Slice the banana cake into 4 pieces.”

“Okay,” said Grandpa.

Knock, knock!

Grandma opened the door again. There stood Amadu, Roro, Ned, and Allieu.

“May we have some banana cake, too?” asked Amadu.

“Yes, you may. Come in,” said Grandma.

Grandma shouted to Grandpa, “Here come 4 more children. Now we need 8 pieces.”

Grandpa shouted back, “How do I cut them?”

“You have 4 pieces. Slice each piece into 2 pieces. Then you will have 8 pieces.”

“Okay,” said Grandpa.



Knock, knock!

Grandma opened the door one more time. There stood Ruby, Bintu, Jenneh, and Kona.

“May we have some banana cake, too?” asked Amadu.

“Um, yes, you may. Come in,” said Grandma.

Grandma shouted to Grandpa, “Here come 4 more children.”

“What do we do now?” asked Grandpa.

“Get the other banana cake out of the oven. There is plenty for everybody.”



Water For The Classroom

Tina's classmates were thirsty.

"Bring us water, please," said Santigie.

"Okay" said Tina. "How much water do we need?"

"I want one cup," said Korto.

"So do I," said Sia.

"Okay, everybody will get one cup," said Tina. "How many students are there in the class?"

"Forty," said the teacher.

"So we need forty cups of water," said Tina.

Tina got a bucket. She read the label.

"The bucket will hold 10 litres," she said.

"How many cups are in a litre?"

"Four," said the teacher. "So how many buckets of water will we need?"



Tina didn't know.

The teacher said, "I will help you."

The teacher wrote on the board:

40 students need 40 cups of water.

1 litre of water is 4 cups.

"How many buckets of water do we need, class?" asked the teacher.

"I know! We can add the cups," said Abu. "One cup of water for Bintu, Sia, Safire, and me. One more cup for Amina, Kona, Aske, and Emily..."

“Stop, Abu. Adding is too slow,” said the teacher. “Let’s multiply and divide instead.”

“How?” asked Abu.

“If one litre has four cups, how many cups do ten litres have?”

“I don’t know,” said Abu.

“Multiply ten times four,” said the teacher. The teacher wrote on the board:

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \text{ litres} \\ \times \underline{4} \text{ cups} \end{array}$$

“Forty!” said Abu.

“Forty what?” asked the teacher.

“Forty cups!” said Abu.

The teacher wrote:

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \text{ litres} \\ \times \underline{4} \text{ cups} \\ 40 \text{ cups} \end{array}$$

“So how many cups does the bucket hold?” asked the teacher.

“Forty!” shouted the class.

“Then how many buckets do we need?” asked the teacher.

The class was quiet.

“Okay, I will show you. Now let’s divide,” said the teacher.

$$\frac{40 \text{ cups of water}}{40 \text{ cups in a bucket}} = \text{What?}$$

“One!” shouted the class.

“Right!” said the teacher. “Tina, please get us one bucket of water. Plus one more cup for me!”



Anansi And The Yam Hills

Retold by Michael Auld and Susan LaBella

Readers Theater: *This story can be read out loud. Assign each person a part and they can read the lines out loud when their character speaks.*

This story can also be performed as a drama. Everyone can volunteer to be a character and then practice the lines in groups first, and then do a presentation for the entire family with actions and voices.

You can have as many or a few readers as you need.

READER 1: Once upon a time, there lived a woman named Five (5). She had magical powers.

READER 2: The woman named Five did not like her name. When she was a child, other children made fun of it.

READER 3: The children would slap their hands together. They yelled “Give me five!” and then burst out laughing.

READER 4: That made Five mad. One day she decided to cast a spell on the people:

FIVE: From this day forward, anyone who says “five” will disappear!

READER 5: The spell caused a big problem in the town. No one could say the word “five” anymore because they would disappear. Children could not say their 5 times tables. Shop keepers could not name the price of anything that had 5 in it.

READER 1: One time, a shopper asked the shop keeper the price of a toy.

SHOP KEEPER: It is five thousand.....

ALL: WOOSH!

READER 2: The shop keeper disappeared!

READER 3: A sneaky spider named Anansi also lived in the town. Times were hard for Anansi. His family had no food to eat. He was too small to work. He had to use his brain to get what he needed to live.



READER 4: Anansi heard about the spell the woman had cast. He thought and thought. Could he use the spell to get what he needed?

ANANSI: Hmmmm.. These are tough times. How can I make this spell work for me?

READER 5: Finally, Anansi had an idea. First, he piled up 5 hills of rich brown dirt along the side of the road.

READER 1: In each hill, Anansi planted yellow yams. He watered the yams. Soon they began to grow.

READER 2: Anansi then sat down by the yam hills and waited. Soon, along came Dog. He had a basket of ribs. The sneaky spider spoke in his sweetest voice.

ANANSI: Good morning, Brother Dog. I know you are busy. But can you help me? I am not as smart as you. Would you help me count how many yam hills I have planted?

BROTHER DOG: Don't bother me, spider. You should have learned to count long ago.

READER 3: The grumpy dog walked away. Anansi sat down to wait.

READER 4: Soon, Bull came by. He carried a basket of fruit.

ANANSI: Brother Bull, Brother Bull, would you lend me a hand?

BROTHER BULL: What is the problem, Brother Spider?

ANANSI: I was a sickly child. I never went to school. Can you help me count the yam hills I have planted?

BROTHER BULL: Sure, Spider! Let's see. You have 1..2..3..4..5.....

ALL: WOOSH!

READER 5: Brother Bull disappeared! His fruit spilled on the ground. Anansi grabbed up the sweet treats and rushed home.

READER 1: During the next few months, Anansi tricked many others in the town. He tricked Turtle and Owl. He tricked Rabbit and Scorpion.

READER 2: He grew very fat from all the food he stole and ate.

READER 3: One day, Mrs. Hen passed by. She had a basket of vegetables. Mrs. Hen was on her way to the market to sell her vegetables.

READER 4: Mrs. Hen passed yam hills. Anansi dropped down from a tree.

ANANSI: Good morning, Mrs. Hen. Can you help me with a problem?



MRS. HEN: Of course, Mr. Spider, what can I do?

ANANSI: I have planted these yam hills. But I don't know how many I have. Would you count them for me, please?

READER 5: Mrs. Hen was onto Anansi's tricks. A few weeks before, she had seen him fool Brother Scorpion.

READER 1: Mrs. Hen walked over to the last yam hill. She climbed on top.

MRS. HEN: Let's see, Mr. Spider. You have 1...2...3...4 yam hills -- and the one I'm standing on.

READER 2: Anansi was angry!

ANANSI: What are you doing? That is not how you count!

MRS. HEN: Why, what do you mean, Mr. Spider?

ANANSI: I don't know of a number called "the one I'm standing on." Start again!

READER 2: So, Mrs. Hen moved to another yam hill. She stood on it. Then she began to count.

MRS. HEN: You have 1...2...3...4 yam hills. And the one I'm standing on.

READER 3: Anansi became even angrier. He shouted...

ANANSI: That is not what you're supposed to say!!

MRS. HEN: Well, if you are so smart, tell me what I am supposed to say?

READER 4: Now Anansi was really shouting.

ANANSI: You are supposed to say 1...2...3...4...5...Oops...



CHAPTER 4: HEALTH

This week we are going to learn more about staying healthy. There are lots of parts of our life that keep us strong.

Stay Healthy!

Get your sleep.

Wash your face.

Clean your hands.

Brush your teeth.

Drink clean water.

Eat safe food.

Sleep under a net.

Wow! Health takes work.

But do we want to get sick?

No, no, no!



Do you remember the 8 steps to washing our hands?

What song do we sing when we wash our hands?

While we sing, we wash

- the palms,
- between fingers,
- on the back of the hands,
- the fingers and nails,
- the wrists.



Washing Hands

Remember to wash your hands:

- After riding the bus,
- When you enter or leave a building,
- After playing outside,
- After touching animals,
- After using the toilet,
- After you sneeze or cough,
- Before eating food,
- Before going to bed.

Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth unless you have washed your hands.

Sleep: How Good It Feels

The Sleepy Sun

by Watchen Babalola

“The day is done,”
said the sun.

High up in the sky.

“The moon is late
and I can’t wait.

I must say goodbye!”



How Good It Feels

by M. Woryonwon Roberts

Good to lay my head
down on my little bed,
when my day's work is done
and all my strength is gone.
My pillow is soft and sweet.
My bed is smooth and neat.
O how good it feels
to rest my tired heels!



Sleep

by James V. Dwalu

Sleep, sleep baby, sleep.

In His arms your life He'll keep.

Sleep and dream the night away.

Sleep, sleep baby, sleep.

On a night so starry

when the skies are alight

and Heaven is so bright.

Sleep, sleep baby, sleep.



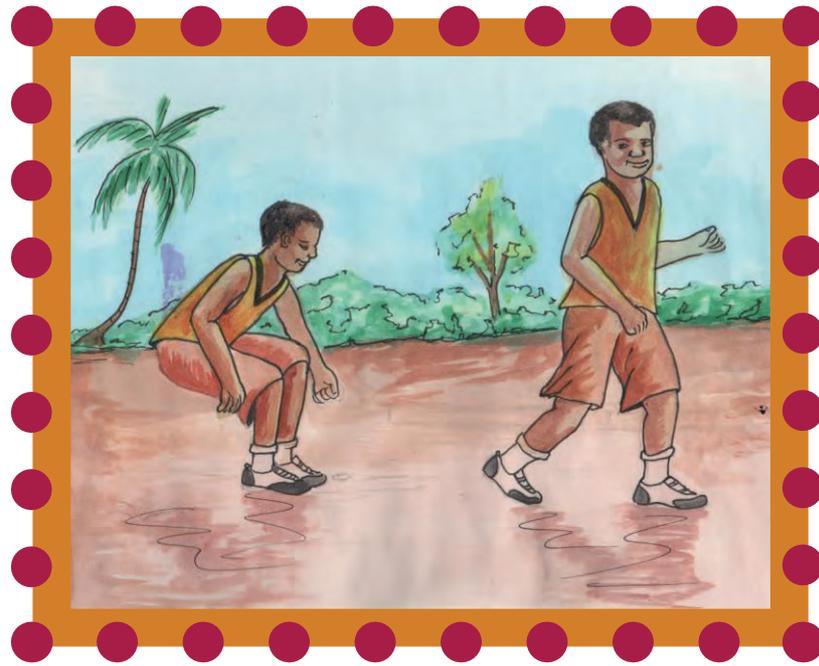
Show Me Your Pattern

by Rainny Brito

I can swing my hip!
Then dip, dip, dip!
So show me your pattern,
your pattern—one.

I can stand akimbo.
Then limbo, limbo, limbo.
So show me your pattern,
your pattern—two.





I can tiptoe along a rope,
Then slide down a slope!
So show me your pattern,
your pattern—three.

I can jump like a frog.
Then jog, jog, jog.
So show me your pattern,
your pattern—four.

I can wiggle and jiggle,
Until it makes me giggle.
So show me your pattern,
your pattern—five.

Show me your pattern
I can dance. I can prance.
I can move to the groove.
One, two, three, four, five.
Happy to be young and alive!



Sarah Stays Home, Part 2

A Covid-19 story

Do you remember our story about Sarah and her brother Abu? Sarah learned about Covid-19 and how she can keep herself and her friends and family safe. We meet Sarah again. She has more to tell us.

“Hello, again, my dear readers. To tell you the truth, I am feeling a bit sad today.

Everything is changing. We don't visit our grandparents. Abu doesn't go to school and come home with stories. We don't go to the market as often. And people don't go to church or the mosque. I can't see my friends. I'm just home all the time.”

I told Abu, “I want to play with my friends, I miss them.”



Abu said, “Yes, it’s a bit sad when we can’t play with our friends. It does feel a bit scary and confusing. I think most people feel like that, when their life has a big change. Nothing is usual.”

I was trying not to cry. I asked Abu, “What can I do?”

“Do you know what I do when I feel scared?” Abu asked me.

“Tell me,” I said, listening to my big brother.

Abu said, “Watch me.” He took a big, big breath in. Then he slowly blew out his air. He said, “That’s what I do. I breathe slowly in. Then, I breathe slowly out. It makes me feel better. Try it!”

I tried it. It felt good.

Then, I said to Abu, “I also have something I do when I’m scared. I think of someone who makes me feel safe. Like Nama when she holds me. Or, my friend Finda who makes me laugh when we play.”



Abu liked my idea. “Yes, that is really good, too. We can think of people who help us feel safe and happy.”

Just then Mama came to sit with Abu and me. “I heard you talking,” she said. “There are lots of things we can do to help us when we feel lonely or scared.

Here are some ideas:

- You can talk to your friends if they stand on the other side of our fence.
- If your parents have a phone, you can talk to your friends by phone.



- Each week, draw or write a letter to your friend. Keep all of these letters in a box and give her the box when it is safe to visit. She will love it!
- We can plant some flowers and take care of them. Later, you can give the flowers to Granny or Auntie Sia.



Then Mama told Abu and me to come and look what she got for us. “Look,” she said, pulling out some beautiful bright yellow cloth. “I bought some special fabric so we make a mask for you and Abu. Then, you can take walks and stay safe. But, you still need to stay one jump rope length away from everyone!”



I looked at Mama and my dear brother. I thought about how to feel better about the change. I thought about good things to do. I was feeling better!



Now, I am going to draw a picture for Finda, my friend so she knows I am thinking about her.



We will hear more about Sarah and Abu in chapter 9, in five weeks.

On The Farm

by T. Michael Weah

Ko-ka-do-la-do.

He sits in the kola tree.

He spreads his wings.

Ko-ka-do-la-do, ko-ka-do-la-do

It is Rooster crowing
good morning to me.



Bow wow.

He jumps on the bed.

He pulls the cover from over me.

Bow wow, bow wow

It is Puppy barking good morning to me.

Cluck cluck.

Her chicks run to
her.

She picks at the
grains of rice.

Cluck cluck, cluck cluck

It is Hen clucking hello to me.



Baa baaa.

She stands in the grass.

She looks at me cross the road.

Baa baa, baa baa

It is Sheep baaing hello to me.

Quack quack.

She swims in the creek.

She catches a fish.

Quack quack, quack quack

It is Duck quacking good afternoon
to me.



Grunk, grunk.

He digs in the mud.

He catches a worm.

Grunk grunk, grunk grunk

It is Pig grunting good afternoon to me.

Maa, maaa.

He rubs his horn on the
mango plum tree.

He eats a big ripe plum.

Maaa maaa, maa maaa

It is Goat bleating good evening to me.

Moo, moo.

She shakes her head.

She stares at the white bird.

*Moo, moo,
moo, moo*

It is Cow mooing
good evening
to me.



Hoot, hoot.

I go back to the
house.

It is time for bed.

Hoot, hoot, hoot, hoot

It is Owl hooting good
night to me.



Good night, crowing Rooster.

Good night, barking Puppy.

Good night, clucking Hen.

Good night, baaing Sheep.

Good night, quacking Duck.

Good night, grunting Pig.

Good night, bleating Goat.

Good night, mooing Cow.

Good night, hooting Owl.
And I hear the animals say Good night!
Z z zzzzzzzz zzzzz.



CHAPTER 5: WHERE I LIVE

People who live in a village, in a town or in the city see different things. This week we will find out more about where we live and what people do around us.



Fishing

Get the crew!

Patch the nets.

Launch the boat.

Everybody paddle!

Put out the nets.

Wait---

Now pull in the nets!

Everybody pull!

Here are the fish!



Life In The Village

In my village there are
25 houses.

1 market.

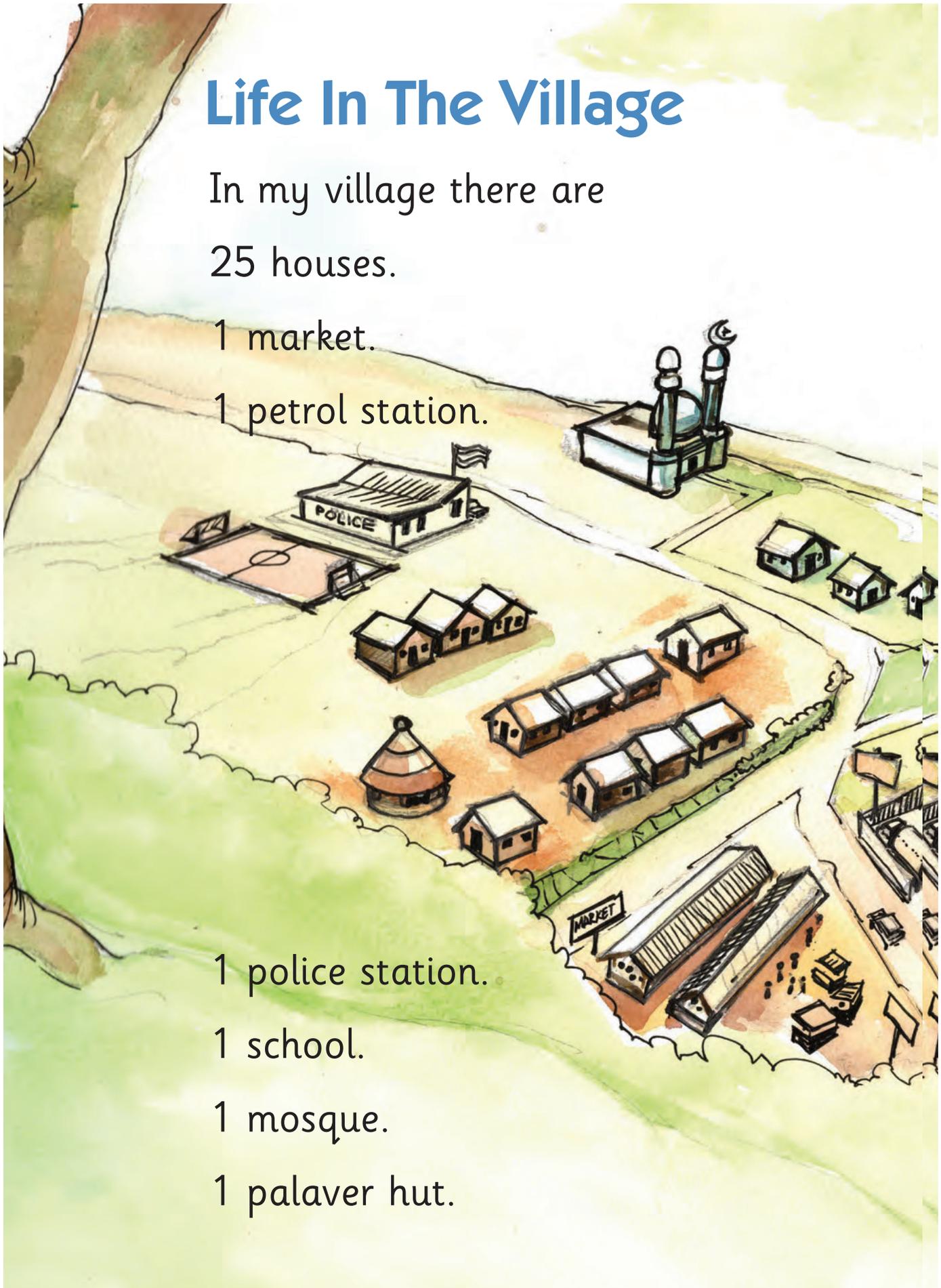
1 petrol station.

1 police station.

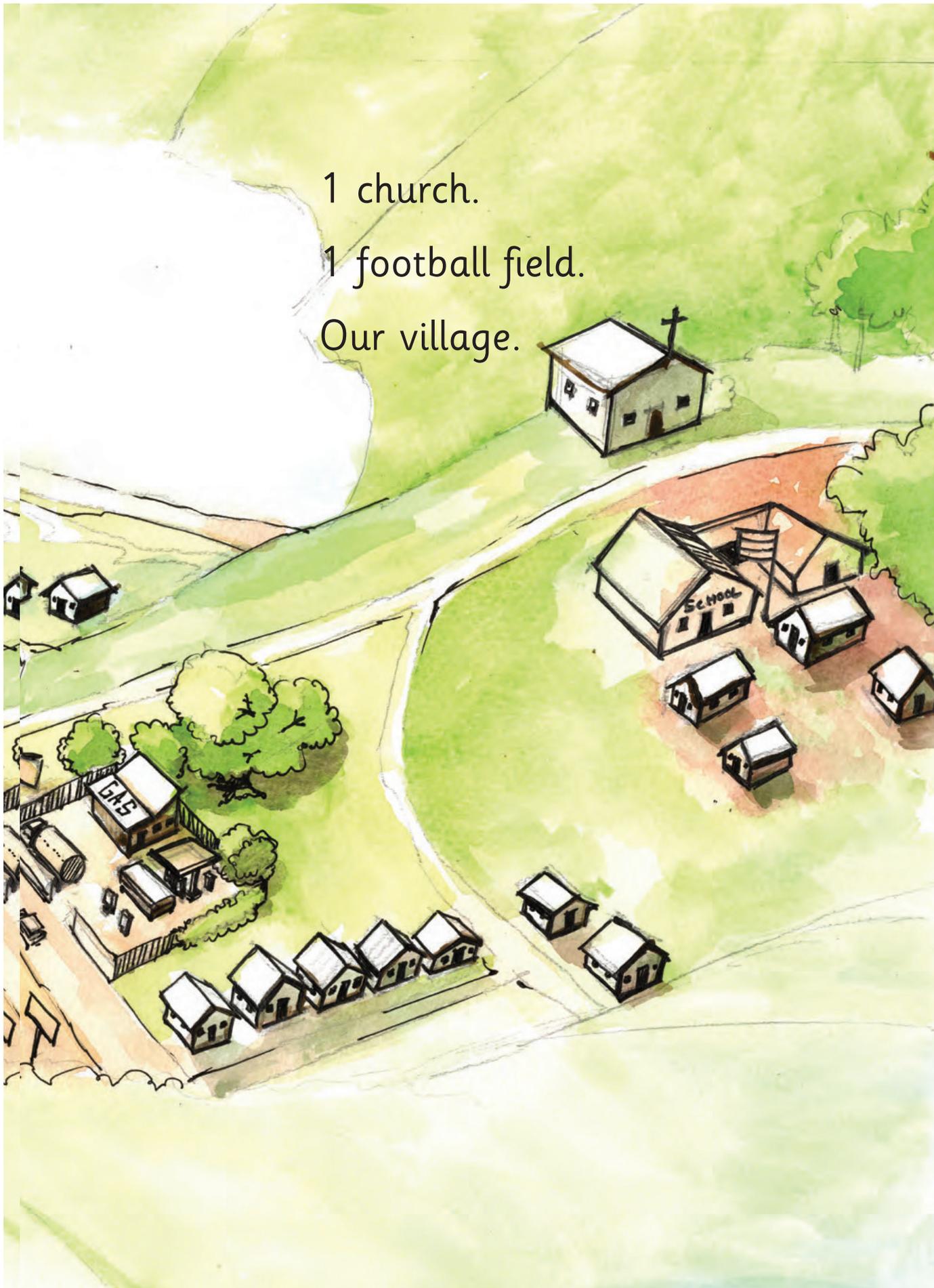
1 school.

1 mosque.

1 palaver hut.



1 church.
1 football field.
Our village.



So Many Things To See And Do

I look around my town. People are doing interesting things.

I see:

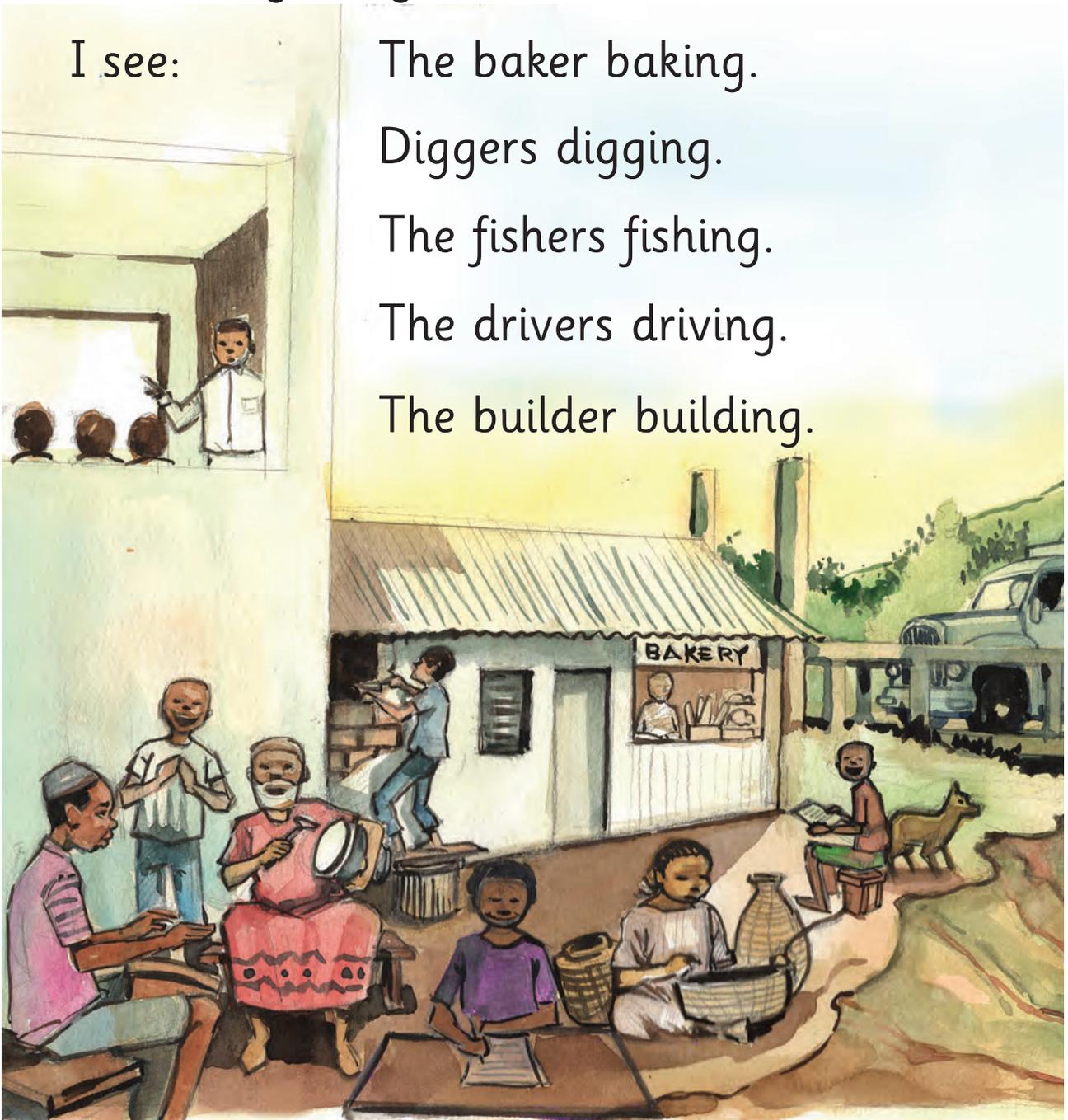
The baker baking.

Diggers digging.

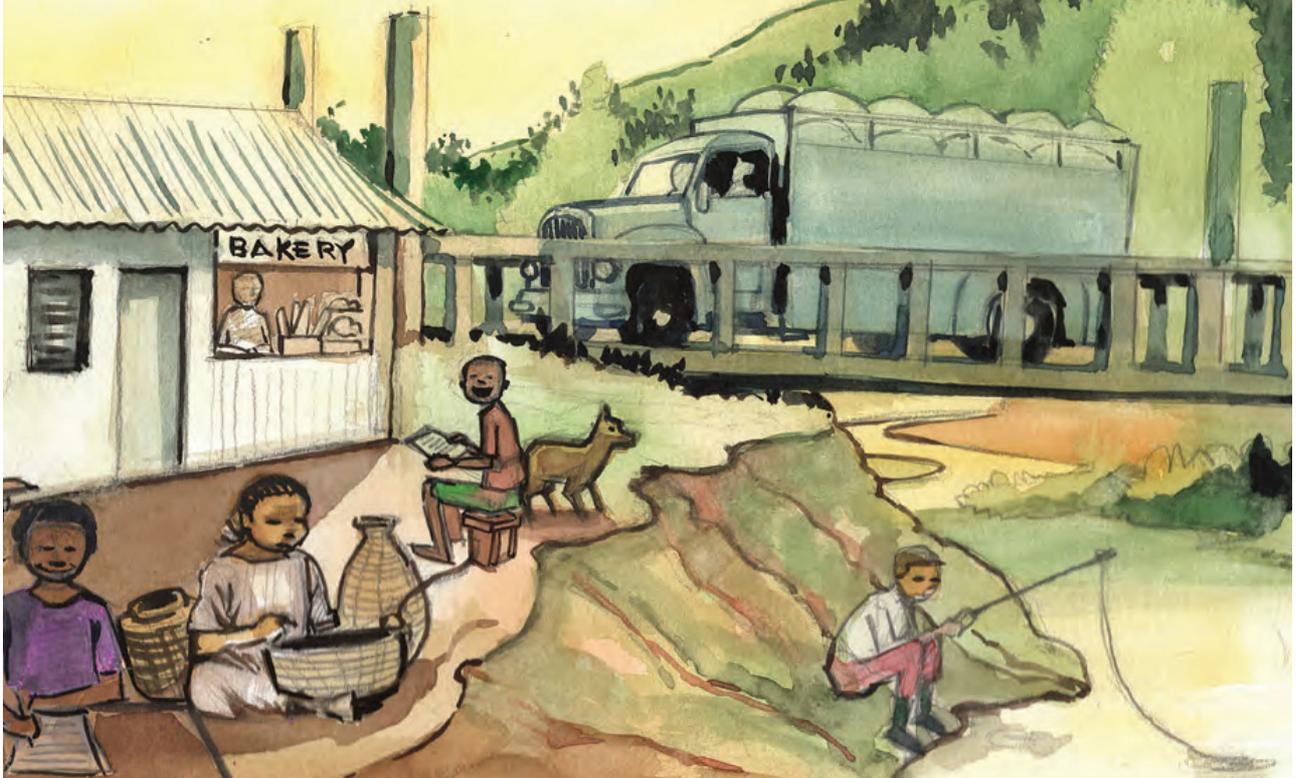
The fishers fishing.

The drivers driving.

The builder building.



I see: The weaver weaving.
The singer singing.
And drummers drumming.



I see: The teacher teaching.
The writer writing.
The reader reading.

One of these is me.

Can you guess which one?

See The People Go In The City

In my city I stand by the road.

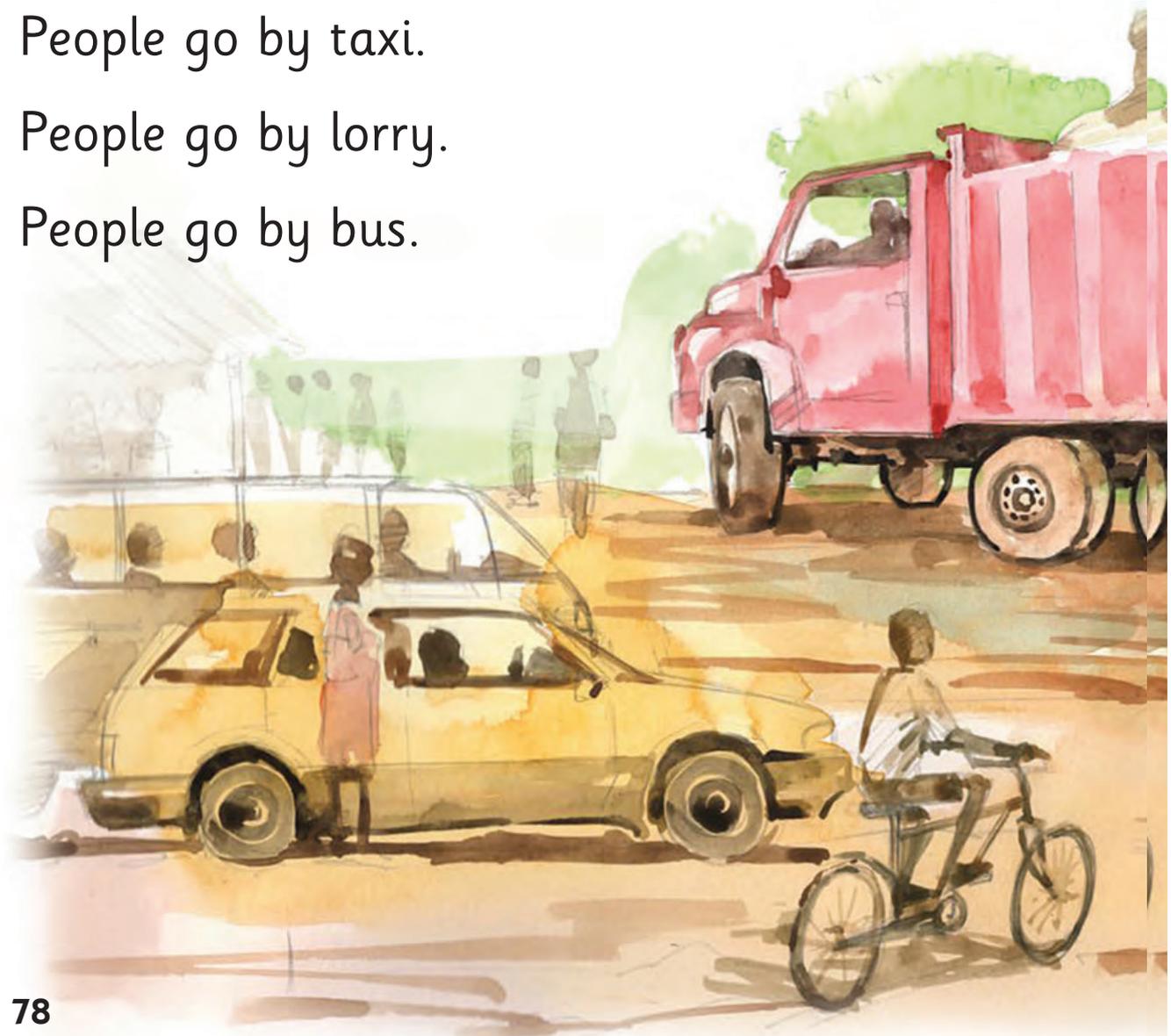
There are many people going from place
to place.

They each use a different way.

People go by taxi.

People go by lorry.

People go by bus.



People go by okada.

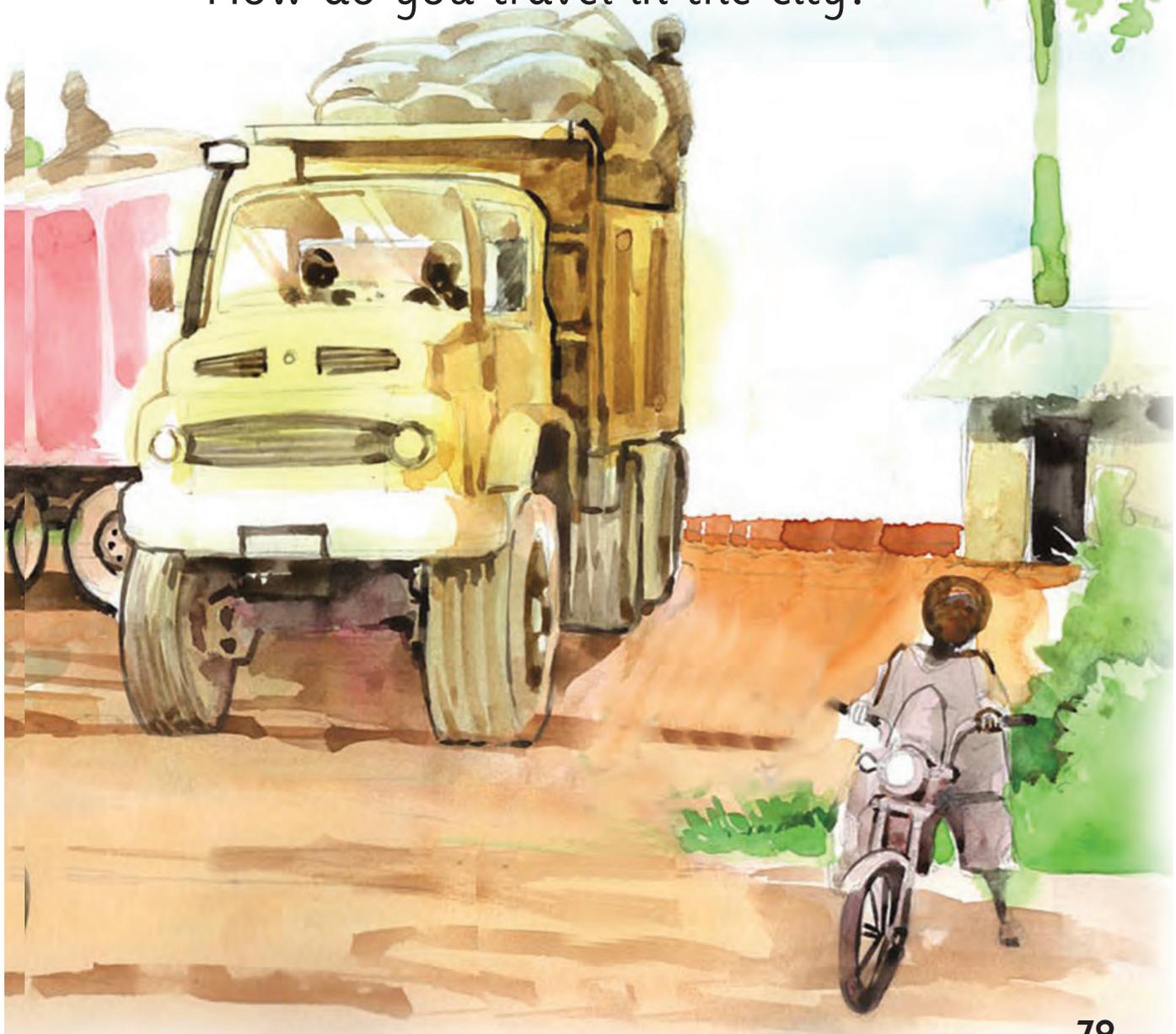
People go by poda-poda.

Some people walk.

Some people run.

Some people ride a bicycle.

How do you travel in the city?

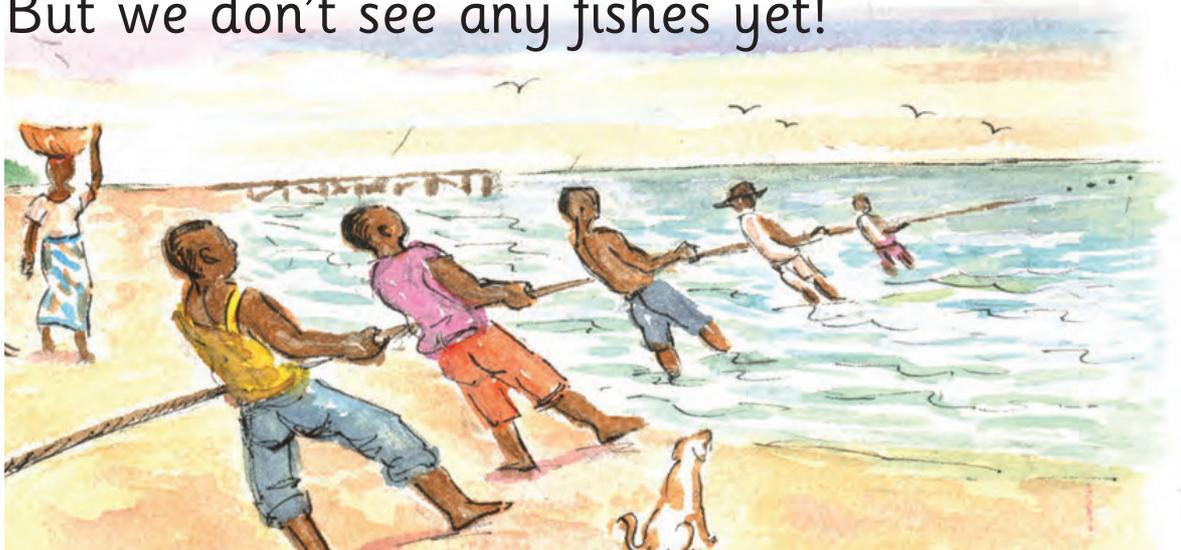


The Boats Are Back

by Sallieu Sall

The boats are back!
Go get a basket.
Get a sack.
Run tell Jenneh.
Run tell Jack.
Come to the beach.
The boats are back!

I saved you a place
Come pull the net.
Let's see how many fish we get.
Feet are sandy, pants are wet.
But we don't see any fishes yet!



Here comes the net.
It's full of fish.
See how they flop.
See how they swish.
Come fill your basket, fill your sack.
Let's see these fish.
The boats are back!



Farmer, Farmer

By Rainny Brito

Farmer, what are you seeing?

I'm seeing the spread of my crops grow.

Farmer, what are you hoping?

I'm hoping that after the rains, the sun will come out for harvesting.

Farmer, what are you chasing?

I'm chasing the birds away and the children are singing!



Farmer, what are you picking?

I'm picking the rice.

Farmer, what are you carrying?

I'm carrying home my rice for storing.

Farmer, What are you shouting?

I'm shouting away hunger and sitting
down to feast.



The Tailor

By Mohamed Sheriff

Once we had a tailor in our village. He was a skillful tailor and he sewed fine clothes. For his good work he was well-known here and beyond. But he had one problem.

He never wore good clothes himself. He dressed in an old pair of khaki shorts. His singlet? It used to be white, but it had turned brown with age.



One day a group of women walked by his shop.

The tailor heard one say, "Look. There is our tailor!"

"Yes," said another. "He makes beautiful clothes for everyone else. But his own clothes are plain."

The tailor felt sad. What could he do?

Perhaps he would make beautiful clothes for himself? So, he saved his money.

He saved and saved and saved.

One day he bought ten yards of cloth.

It was glossy. It was tie-dyed. It was bright yellow and green.

He sewed and sewed and sewed.

He sewed late into the night.

At last he had made himself a fine suit.

It had long trousers.

It had a handsome rapel.

It had a long gown.

The tailor put on his suit.
He looked grand!

Everyone thought so. Even
the women!

The tailor was glad.
He loved the suit.

He wore it every day and
everywhere he went.

He wore it when he woke up in the
morning.

He wore it all through the day until
bedtime.

He wore it five times a day to the
mosque for prayers.

He wore it to church when invited.

He wore it at weddings and when they
named a child.



He wore it at funerals.

He wore it at harvest time.

He wore it to the two great Muslim feasts.

He even wore it on Christmas Day, on Easter and on New Year's Day.

He wore it until the bright colours of the gown turned pale. He wore it until the gown became frayed at the sides and bottom. He wore it until the gown split right down the middle.

“Oh,” he said to himself. “That is the end of my suit!”

Well, he thought so at first. But when he cast off the gown, he saw that the rapel was in good shape. The colours were still bright. The cloth was still firm and glossy.

He was glad. “Not the end yet,” he said with a chuckle.

So he wore the rest of his suit every day and everywhere he went.

He wore it to the mosque...

to church...

to weddings...

to namings...

to funerals...

at harvest time...

to the great Muslim feasts...

to the great Christian feasts...



He wore it until the cuffs were frayed and torn.

He wore it until the sleeves fell off the shoulders.

“Oh,” he said to himself. “That is the end of my suit!”

Well, he thought so at first.

But when he cast off the rapel he saw that only the sleeves were torn. The rest of the rapel looked good.

He cut off both sleeves. He folded the frayed edges. He stitched over them neatly. Now he had created a new style of rapel.

This rapel had no sleeves.

The tailor was glad. He loved his new rapel.

“It’s not done yet,” he chuckled to himself.

So he wore the rapel every day and everywhere he went.

He wore it to the mosque...

to church...

to weddings...

to namings...

to funerals...

at harvest time...

to the great Muslim feasts...

to the great Christian feasts...



He wore it until the rapel split right down the middle.

“Oh,” he said to himself. “This is the end of my suit!”

Well, he thought so at first.

He turned the pocket inside out to see if he had anything in it. And he saw that the pocket was still sound. The colour was still bright. The cloth was still firm.

He took the pocket and made a beautiful draw string purse.

The tailor was glad. He loved the purse. “It’s not done yet,” he chuckled to himself.

So he used the purse every day and took it everywhere he went.



He took it to the mosque...
to church...
to weddings...
to namings...
to funerals...
at harvest time...
to the great Muslim feasts...
to the great Christian feasts...

He used the purse until the cloth sprung holes.

It no longer served for carrying things.

“Oh,” he said to himself. “This is finally, finally the end of my suit.”

Well, he thought so at first. But before he cast off the purse, he pulled out the draw string.

And out of the draw string he kept fond memories of his great bright coloured suit.

And from those memories he made a story.

And now, you have just read it.

CHAPTER 6: FOOD

This week we are going to talk about food. All the nice things we eat, and where our food comes from. We'll get to explore Grandma's Big Green Garden!

Fruit Treats And Chant

Star fruit, bread fruit,
pineapple sweet.
Coconut, paw-paw,
guava treat.
Mango, melon,
orange so sweet.
Banana, sweet sop,
tamarind treat.
All these fruits
are good to eat.



Chant:

Pineapple

Coconut

Paw-paw, too.

Melon

Mango

Good for you.



Meals Of The Day

Breakfast is the first meal of the day.
Eat well at breakfast and healthy you
will stay.

I had pap for breakfast yesterday.

I have pap for breakfast every day.

Lunchtime comes in the middle of the
day.



Nice, good meal.

You are on your way!

I had rice for lunch yesterday.

I have rice for lunch every day.

Dinner is what we have in the evening.

Fish or soup is what I am dreaming.

We had fish for dinner yesterday,

So maybe we will have a yummy soup
today.



Count And Eat

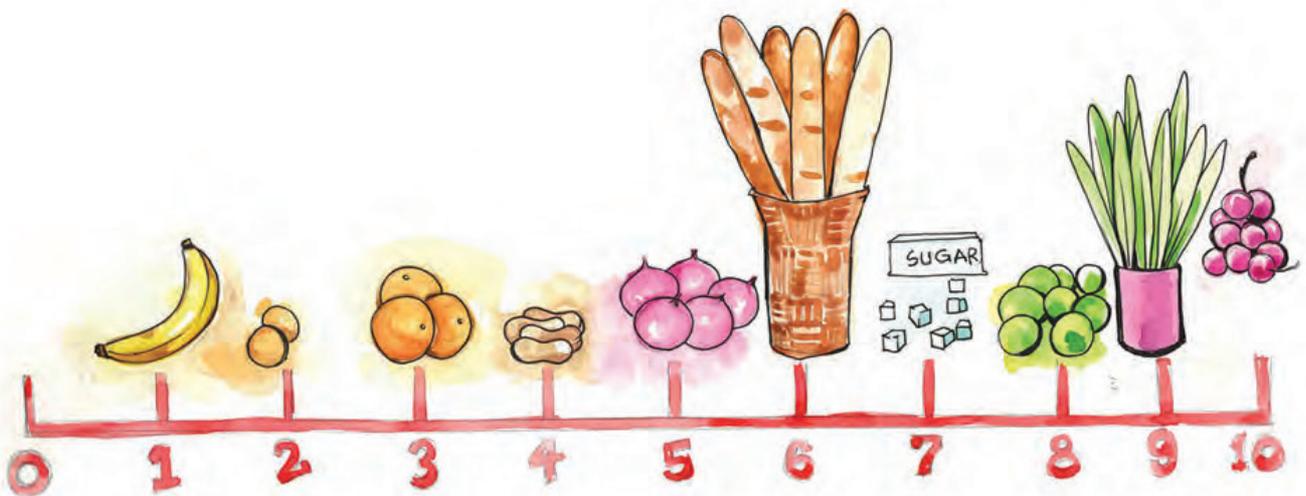
One, two –
I love fufu.

Three, four –
I love rice more.

Five, six –
saucy mix;

Seven, eight –
on my plate.

Nine, ten –
eat again!



Which Foods Are Best: Plants Are Good For You

by Elizabeth Newell, Ph.D.

You eat so you won't be hungry. You also eat so you will be healthy. Different foods keep you healthy in different ways.

Some foods give you energy. Some foods make your muscles grow. Other foods make your bones and teeth strong. Some foods help you see better. Your body needs many things from food to stay healthy and most of these things can come from plants.

What can we get from plants?

Carbohydrates! Our bodies get energy from yams, potatoes, and cassava.

These have starch and sugar – called carbohydrates



Protein! We need protein to grow muscle and other tissues. We get protein from beans and from green leafy vegetables. We also get protein from meat, like chicken and fish.

Fats! We need to eat a little bit of fat to keep our bodies healthy. We get fats from palm oil and coconut oil. We get it from meat, too.

Fiber! Eating plants is the only way to get the fiber we need to stay healthy. We get fiber from oranges and bananas. And also from cabbage, breadfruit, cassava leaves, potato leaves, and craincrain.

Vitamins and minerals! We need Vitamin A for our eyes and calcium for our bones. We get vitamin A from carrots, oranges, and mangoes. We get calcium from milk.

Eat different kinds of plants and meat, the more variety you have the more nutrition you will get.

Grandma's Big Green Garden

by Llord Aidoo

See Grandma's new GARDEN.

I help Grandma:

clear the grass,
hoe the SOIL,
and make long rows.

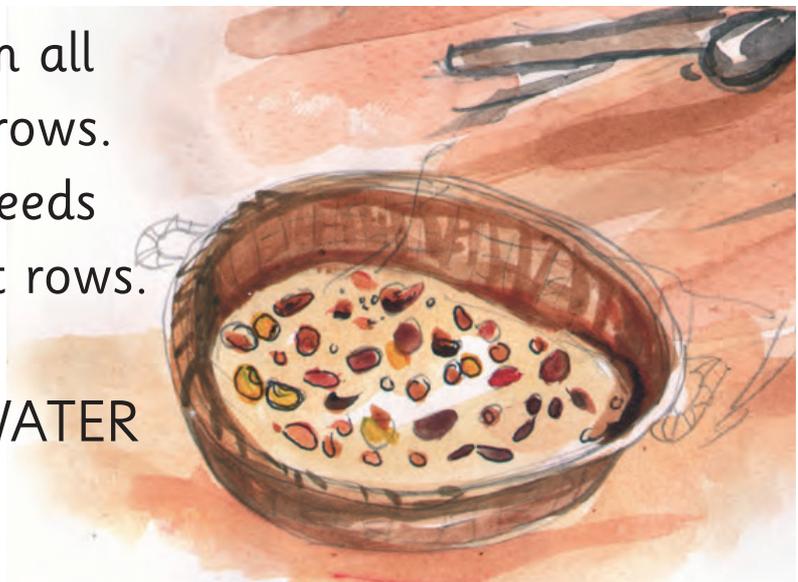
Grandma has many SEEDS:

Round ones,
brown ones,
teeny tiny skinny ones.

She plants them all
in long, long rows.

I plant melon seeds
in short, short rows.

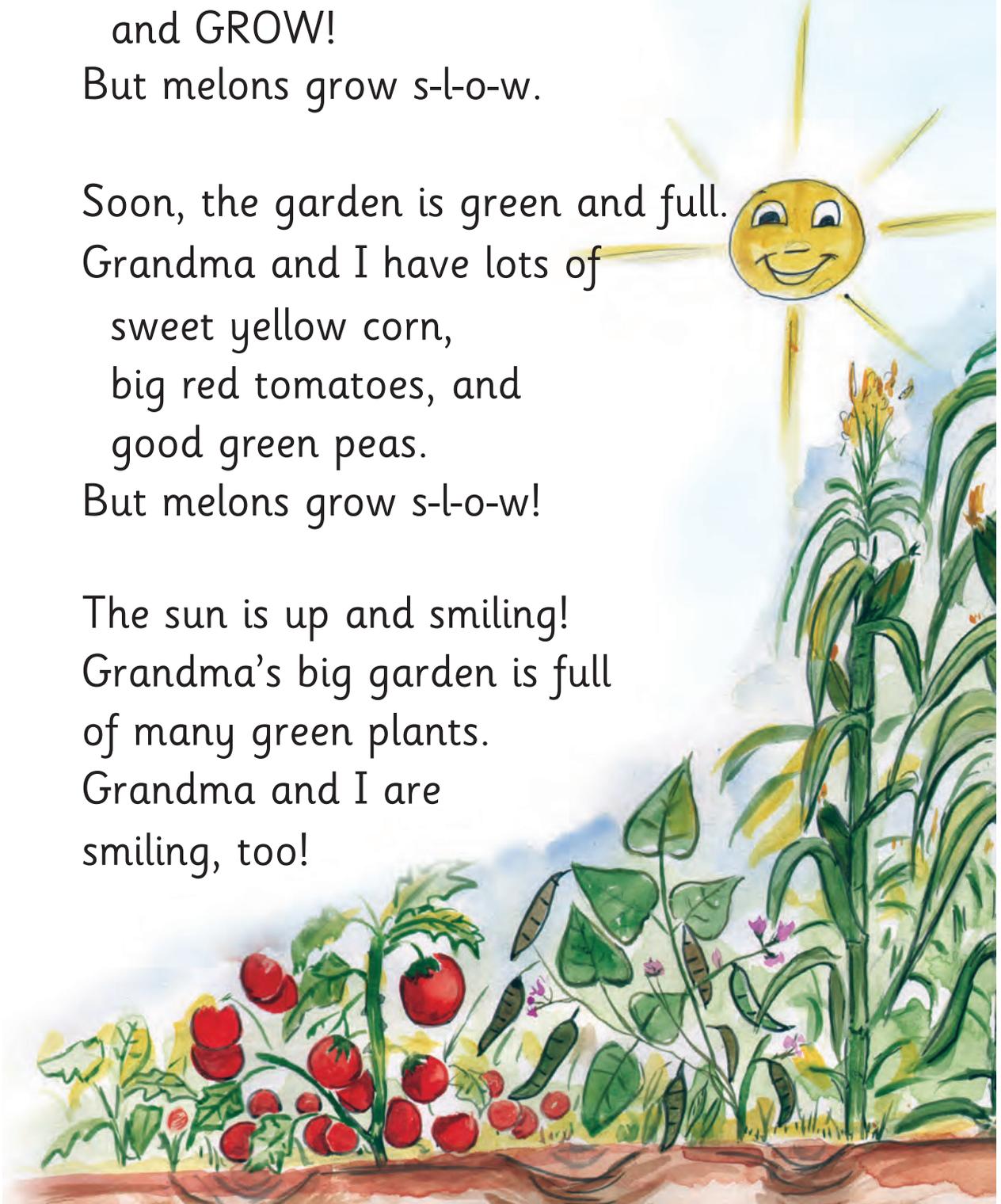
Each day we WATER
the rows.



The bright SUN comes out
and makes the little plants grow,
and grow,
and GROW!
But melons grow s-l-o-w.

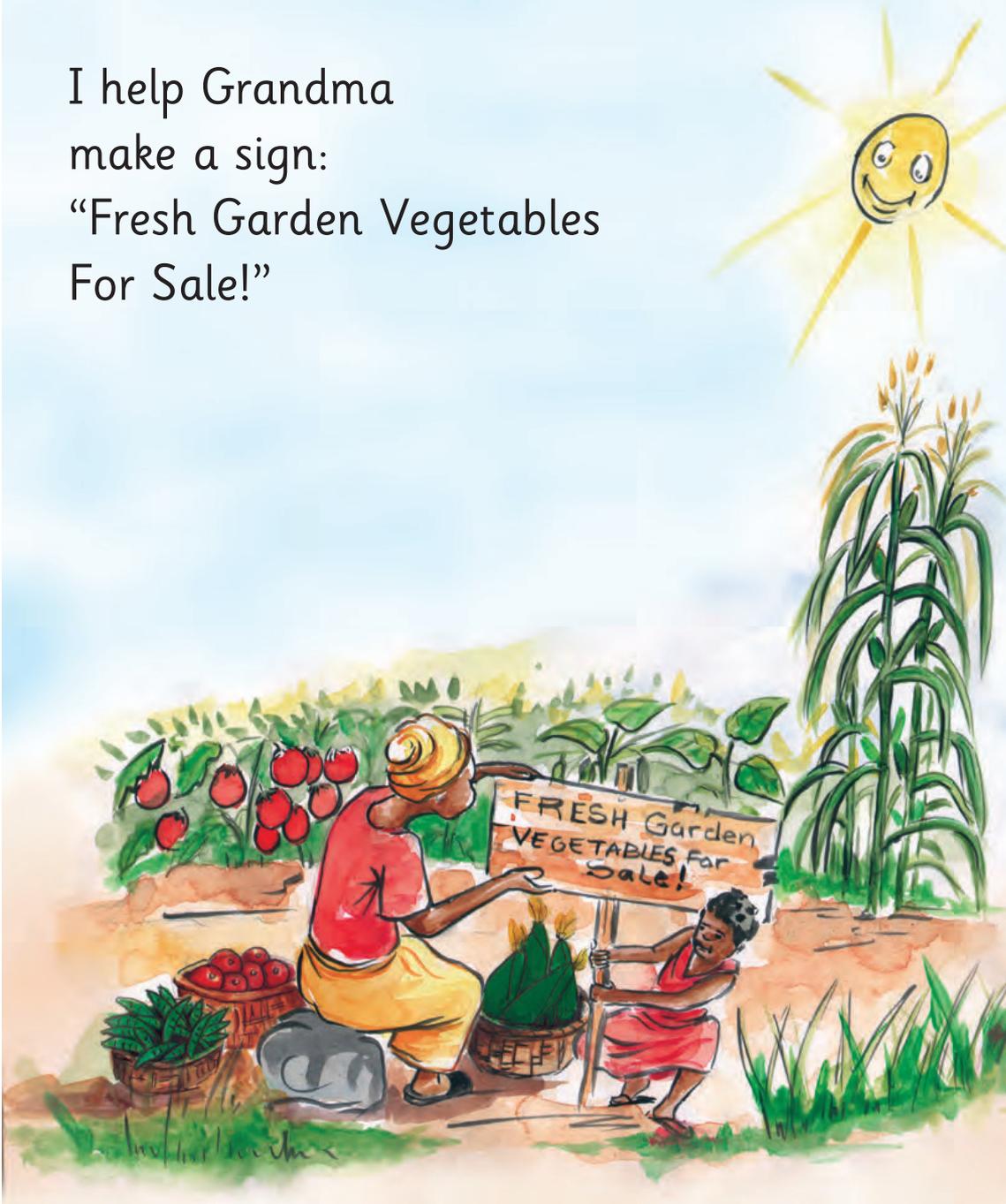
Soon, the garden is green and full.
Grandma and I have lots of
sweet yellow corn,
big red tomatoes, and
good green peas.
But melons grow s-l-o-w!

The sun is up and smiling!
Grandma's big garden is full
of many green plants.
Grandma and I are
smiling, too!



Grandma and I pick
the sweet yellow corn,
the big red tomatoes,
and all the good green peas.

I help Grandma
make a sign:
“Fresh Garden Vegetables
For Sale!”





Soon, lots of people come to our garden.
My friend Mona comes with her mom.
Grandma's friends come, too.

They come in cars and vans.
Others walk and some ride bikes.
They bring bags,
big sacks,
and baskets.

They buy
the sweet yellow corn,
the big red tomatoes,
and all the good green peas!

Grandma's friends are happy.
We are happy, too.
Grandma's garden has grown fine, fresh food
for us all.

Finally, the melons are big and full and ripe!
"How about these melons?" I ask Grandma.
"Yes," Grandma says, "we will have melon
fun!"
Grandma helps me pick the fat, sweet melons.
We pack them in big boxes.
We put the boxes in Grandma's car.
And off to SCHOOL we go!

My friends at school run to meet us.
Everyone is happy to see us.
There are enough melons for everyone to get
a share.



“How did you grow these nice melons?” my friends asked Grandma and me.

I tell them all about Grandma’s garden:
the soil to plant the seeds,
the seeds that grew,
the water for the plants to drink,
the sunlight to help the plants make food.

Soil, Seeds, Water, and Sunlight, too.
Now everyone knows how green plants grow
in Grandma's Big Green Garden!



CHAPTER 7: FRIENDS

This week we are going to read and hear all about friendship. We can be friends with lots of people that we see each day, or that we see only a few times..

What Makes A Friend?

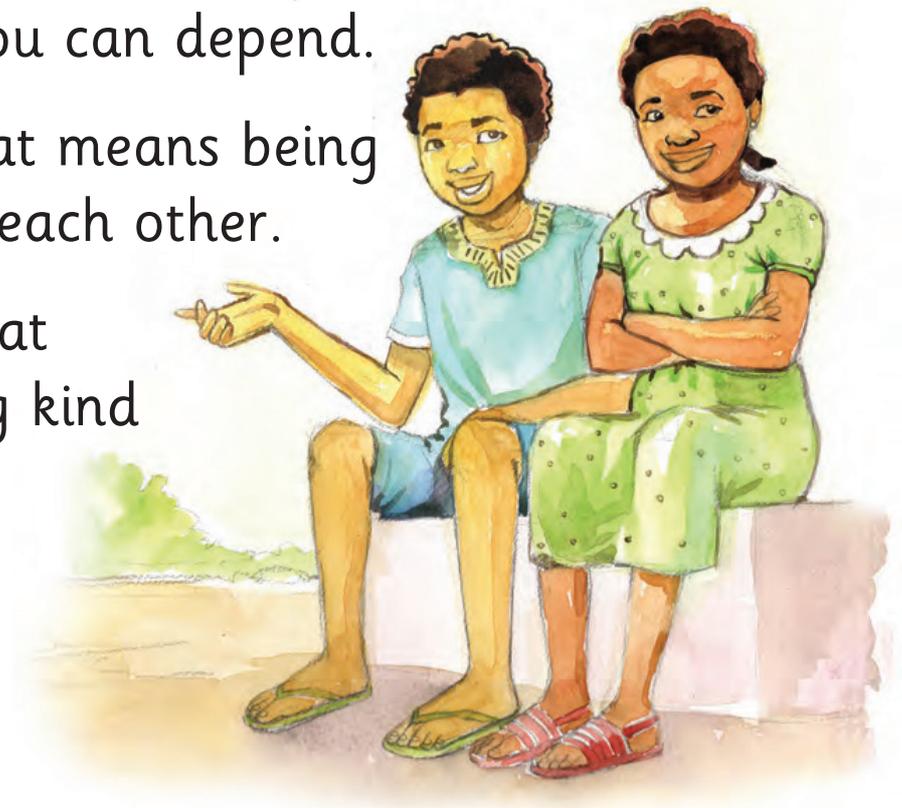
Honesty. That means being truthful.

Loyalty. That means being faithful.

Trust. That means being someone on whom you can depend.

Worthy. That means being valuable to each other.

Friendly. That means being kind and caring.



Do You Want To Make Friends?

You should be nice.

You should take time to play.

You should do things with your friend.

Be someone they can trust.

You should not brag.

You should share what you have.

You should say “please”
and “thank you.”



May I Play?

Every day my friend will say,

“Come outside now.

Let’s go play.”

I ask mother if I may.

Guess what?

My mother says, “Okay!”



Football

Football, football, come and play.

Football, football, every day.

Football, football, rolling by.

Football, football, in the sky.

Football, football, let's get set.

Football, football, in the net!

GOAL!



Friends Can Be Different

I like groundnuts.

Bintu likes mangos.

I like to swim.

Roro likes to run.

I draw pictures.

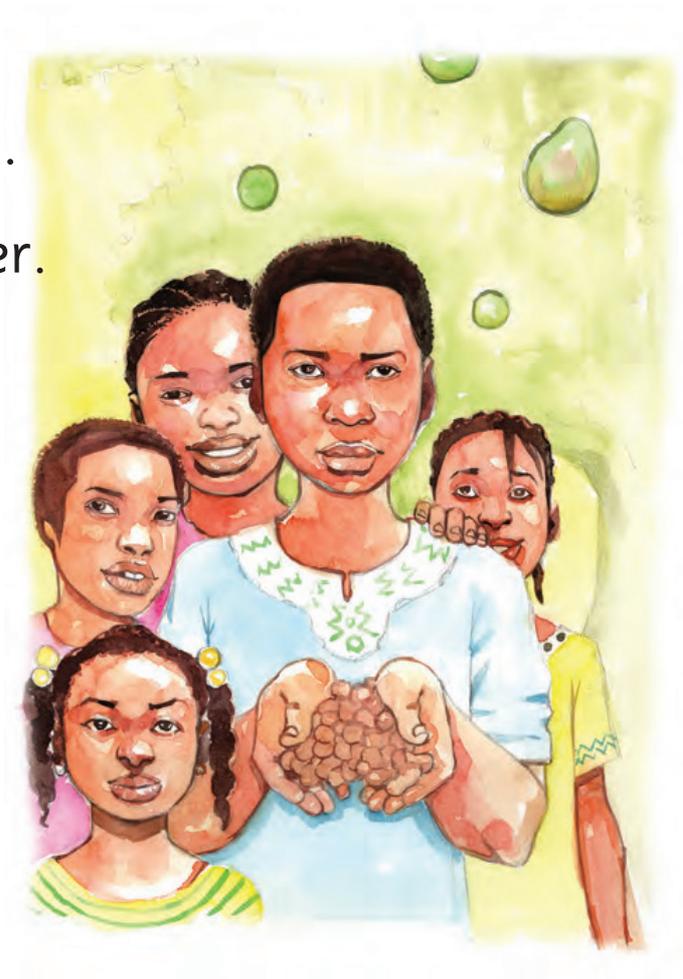
Sia writes poems.

I sing songs.

Finda tells stories.

We like each other.

We are friends.



A Hole In The Bucket

Fanta went to get water for her family.
She opened the tap to fill the bucket.

Oh, no! There was a hole in the bucket.

The water went out.



Fanta's friend said, "You can use my bucket."

Fanta filled the bucket with water and carried it home to her mother.

Mama said, "Thank you Fanta. We will fix the bucket. You can return it to your friend tomorrow."



How Monkey Got His Tail Back

Monkey used to play tricks on the animals. He pulled Rabbit's ears. He tied Snake into a knot. He plucked Cat's whiskers.





The animals did not like Monkey's tricks. They decided to teach him a lesson.

One afternoon Monkey slept under a tree. The animals crept up on him. They rolled a big rock onto Monkey's tail.

"Ow!" shouted Monkey. He woke. He jumped up. He pulled. He yanked. He broke his long tail off!

Cat took Monkey's tail. She ran away.

Monkey chased after Cat. "Give me back my tail!" he yelled. "I need it to climb trees."

“No!” said Cat. “You will play more tricks on us.”

“No, I won’t,” said Monkey. “I promise. Please give it back.”

“You must give me something,” said Cat.

“What?” said Monkey.

“Bring me milk from Cow,” said Cat.
“Then I will give you back your tail.”

Monkey went to Cow. “Cow, please give milk to Cat. If you give milk to Cat, Cat will give me my tail back.”

Cow said, “Bring me grass from Farmer. Then I will give milk to Cat.”

Monkey went to Farmer. “Farmer, please give grass to Cow. If you give grass to Cow, Cow will give milk to Cat. If Cow gives milk to Cat, Cat will give me my tail back.”

Farmer said, “Bring me rain from Cloud. Then I will give grass to Cow.”

Monkey went to Cloud. “Cloud, please give rain to Farmer. If you give rain to Farmer, Farmer will give grass to Cow. If Farmer gives grass to Cow, Cow will give milk to Cat. If Cow gives milk to Cat, Cat will give me my tail back.”

Cloud said, “Bring me water from River. Then I will give rain to Farmer.”

Monkey went to River. “River, please give rain to Farmer. If you give rain to Farmer, Farmer will give grass to Cow. If Farmer gives grass to Cow, Cow will give milk to Cat. If Cow gives milk to Cat, Cat will give me my tail back.”

River said, “I will gladly give you water.”

River gave water Cloud. Cloud gave rain to Farmer. Farmer gave grass to Cow. Cow gave milk to Cat. And Cat gave Monkey his tail back.

Monkey thanked Cat. Monkey climbed a tree. He laughed and laughed. He is not laughing at the animals any more. He is laughing because he is happy to have his tail back.



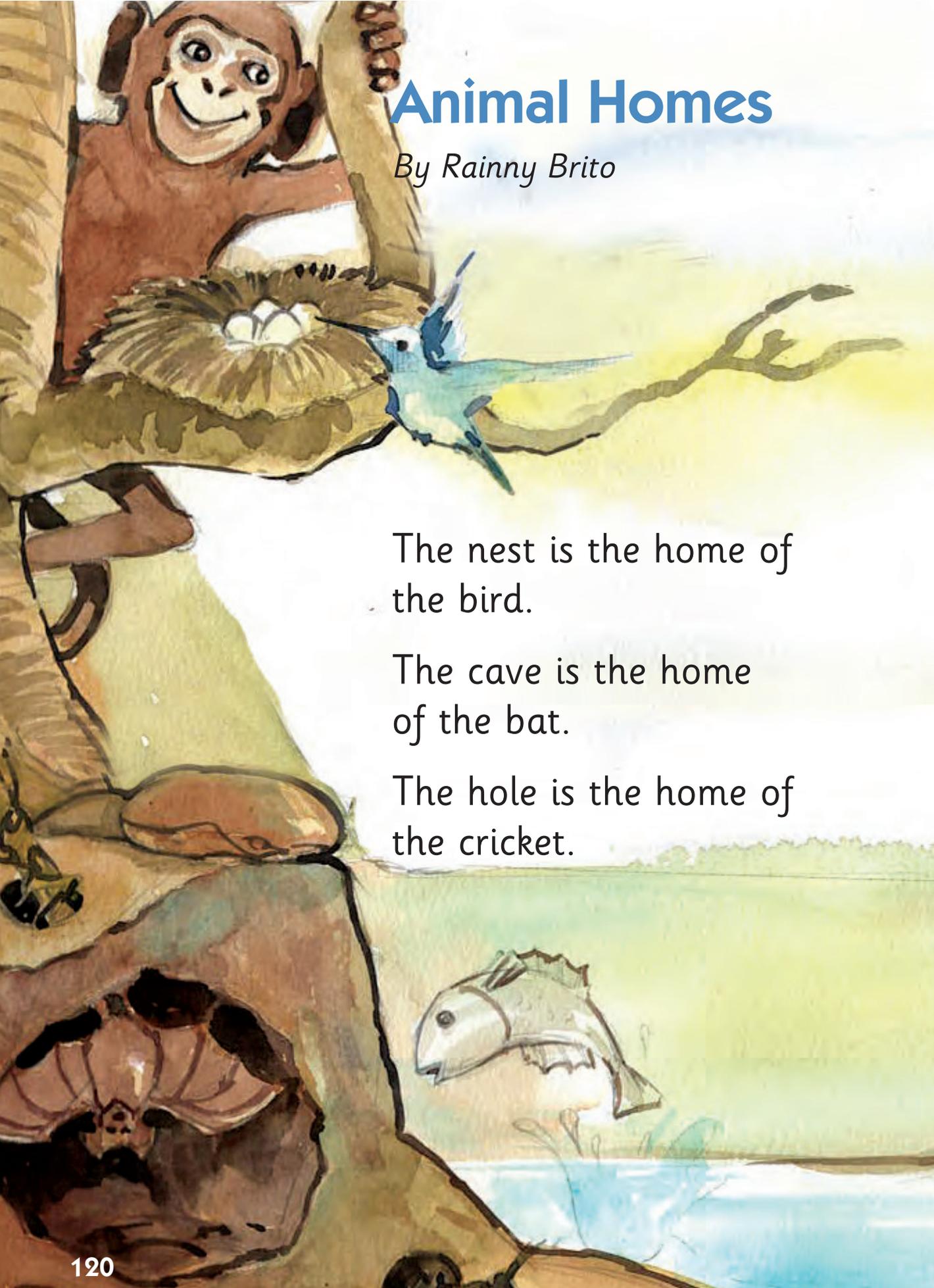
CHAPTER 8: FARMING

This week we are going to read and hear all about farming plants and animals.

Animals live all around us, some animals are pets and are like our friends and some animals live in the wild.

We raise some animals for food, and we also grow crops and plants to eat. This is called farming.





Animal Homes

By Rainny Brito

The nest is the home of
the bird.

The cave is the home
of the bat.

The hole is the home of
the cricket.

The river is the home of
the fish.

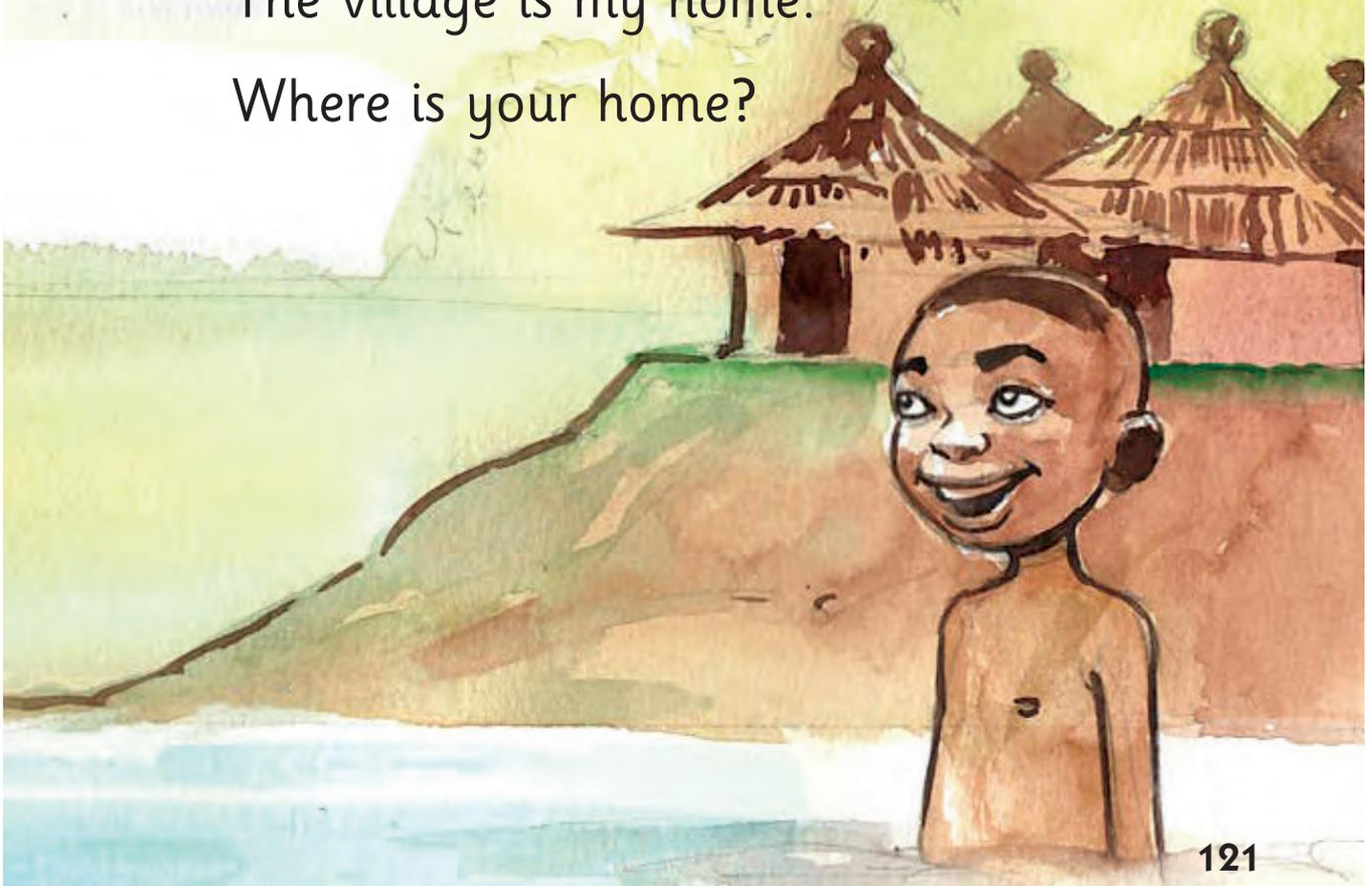
The tree is the home of
the monkey.

The farm is the home of
the plant.

The sky is the home of
the rain.

The village is my home.

Where is your home?



Weather

What is the weather like today?

The clouds are coming.

It's a cloudy day.

Let's play!



The rain is falling.

It's a rainy day.

Let's jump in

the puddles!



The sun is shining.

It's a sunny day.

Let's go swimming!



Farming Season

In January, the men cut the bush with sharp knives. This is hungry work!



Back in the village, the women cook. Then they carry the food to the men working on the farm.



In February, the men cut down branches off trees on the farm.

Then they let the ground dry.

In March, the farmers use small bundles of palm fronds to burn the farm.



As the fire begins the men shout,
“huuhu, huuhu, huuhu.”

They shout to make the fire big and hot!

The dark smoke fills the sky.

We always make sure to plant a banana.



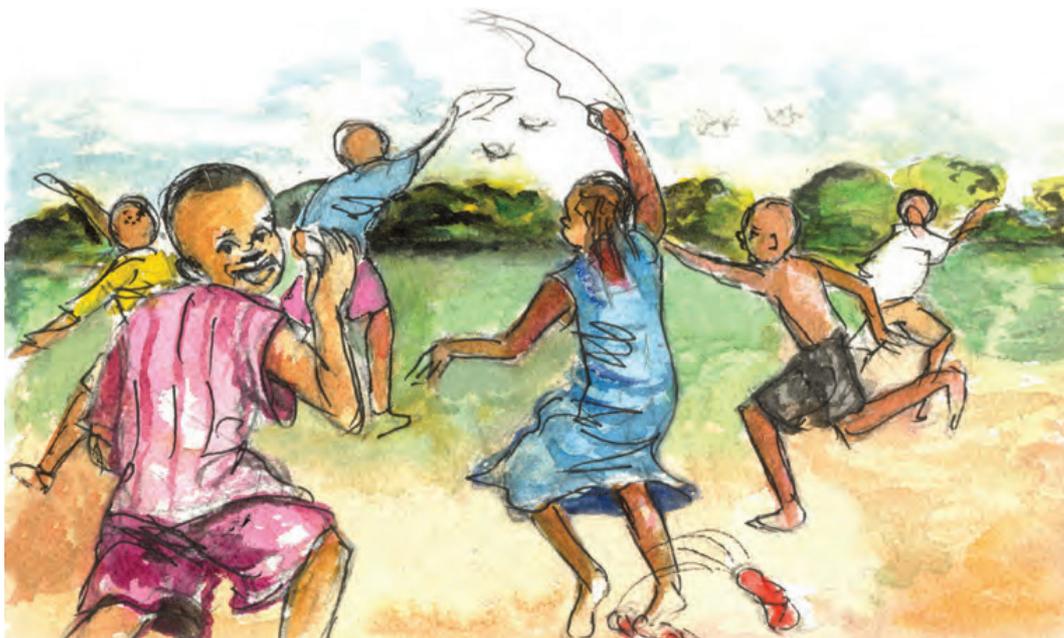
Tradition says it will make the soil happy so it will grow good crops!

In April, the farmers start to dig cassava heaps.

The women and men dig the cassava heaps with hoes.

The women cut the cassava stem with knives and plant them into the cassava heaps.

It is important work!



May is for planting!

Along with rice we plant corn, bennie, ogusi, tomatoes and peppers.

When the little plants start to grow, the children have a big job to do.

They come to the farm early in the morning to drive away the hungry weaver birds who want to eat the plants.

They drive the birds away in the evenings, too.

The plants grow well in **May and June**.

During this time, the men fence the farm and set traps to catch the rodents who wish to eat the tasty plants.

In July and August, the women go through the fields and dig up all the weeds.



During this time, heavy rains fall.

Though the rain beats them on their backs, though the cold seeps into their hands, the women keep working so the crop will grow well.

In September and October the rice starts to produce fruits.

The hungry birds are watching.

The children get up early in the morning to drive them away.

They remain all day and late into the evening to save the crop from being eaten up.





November is a joyous time! The rice field is golden with the color of ripened rice.

The harvest begins in happy **November**
and ends in sweet **December!**

Soon another year of farming will begin.



All About Bees

(non fiction)

Bees are good.
They give us
honey to eat.
They help plants
grow.



There is sweet
juice in flowers. It is called nectar. A bee
visits 2,000 flowers in a day. She sucks
nectar from each flower. Her body turns
nectar into honey. She takes the honey
back to her hive. She puts the honey into
a honeycomb. The next day she does it
all again.

A worker bee lives only 30 to 45 days.
In her life she can only make a little bit
of honey. Together, twelve bees make
one teaspoon of honey in their lives.
Between 20,000 and 60,000 bees live in

a hive. Together they can make a lot of honey.

Bees can fly fast, over 20 kilometers per hour. Bees can also fly far, as much as 10 kilometers each day.

A worker bee finds flowers. She tells other bees where they are. She tells them which way to go and how far to travel. But bees cannot talk, so she tells them by dancing. Her dance shows the other bees where to find the flowers!

Bees are helpful. Their honey is sweet and tastes good. Bees are good for plants, too. Dust from plants sticks to their legs. The dust is called pollen. Bees take pollen from plant to plant. This helps other plants grow.

Bees can be harmful, too. One bee sting can hurt, but many bee stings could kill you. Stay away from bees. Let them do their job.

Three Juicy Red Plums

by T. Michael Weah

Juicy red plums up in the tree,
Swinging and swaying in the breeze.
One good shake and I will have three
Juicy red plums in front of me.
One juicy red plum I will eat.
One in my pocket I will keep
For mama and
Baby Dee.
The last I will
give to my
friend Dee.



The Rainy Season

By Rainny Brito

It was 10:00 o'clock in the morning. Teacher was ill. She was not in school today. The students sat quietly in the classroom.

Suddenly Larpu stood up. "Class, I will be our Teacher. Please pay attention."

All her classmates laughed. All except the class prefect.

"Larpu, if you do not behave, I will write your name for punishment," said the prefect.



But Larpu walked boldly to the front of the class, “I am only improving my oral skills.

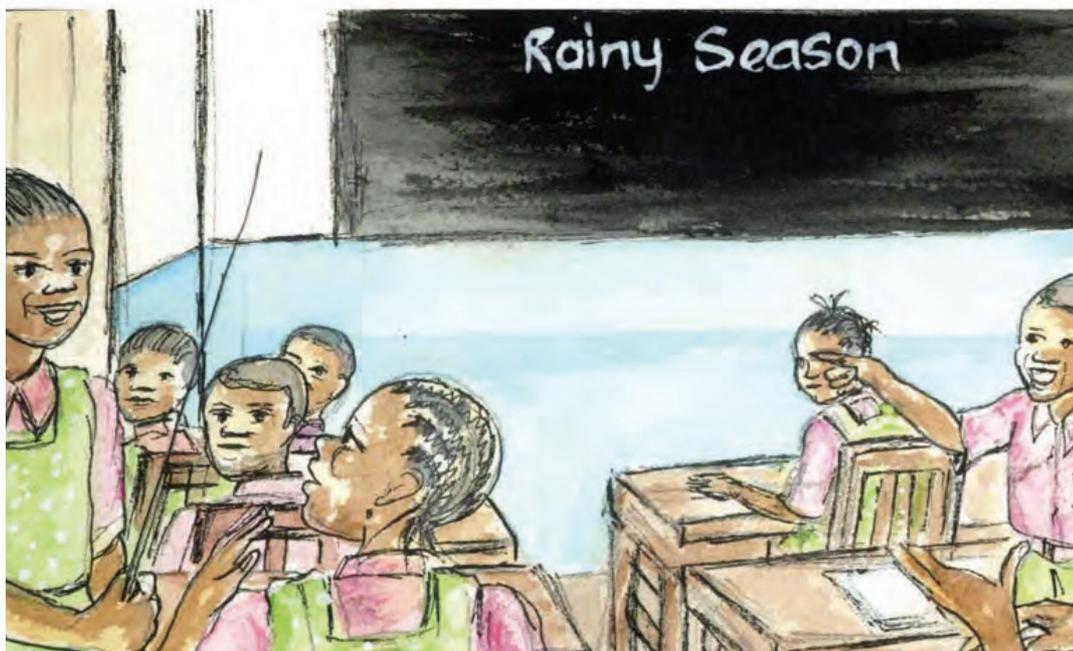
Am I lying, class?”

And the whole class roared, “Nooooo!”

Larpu picked up the cane from Teacher’s desk. She began to walk boldly like their class Teacher.

“Okay, teach us something, since you have become a Teacher,” said the class prefect, with a laugh. Larpu took a piece of chalk from its box.

“Teach us about the rainy season!” shouted Miata. Miata was the smallest girl in the class.



Larpu gave them a broad smile. Amina wrote the words “Rainy Season” on the board.

Larpu smiled and went on. “August is the most difficult time in the rainy season because it rains heavily and almost every day.”

“Teacher Larpu, what kind of work do people do during the rainy season?” Abu asked.

Larpu paused to get her answers clear. “Of course, people do all types of work during the rainy season, but the most important work in our village is farming and fishing. Farming begins in May. That is when the rains begin to fall. Crops do well when they have enough water.”

“When it rains, the streams and rivers begin to flow. The fish will travel at will. People use nets, hooks, fences, and bamboo cages to catch the fish.”

The class prefect stood up smiling, “Teacher Larpu, I don’t mean to disagree with you, but where does water come from?” The whole class gave a heavy sigh.

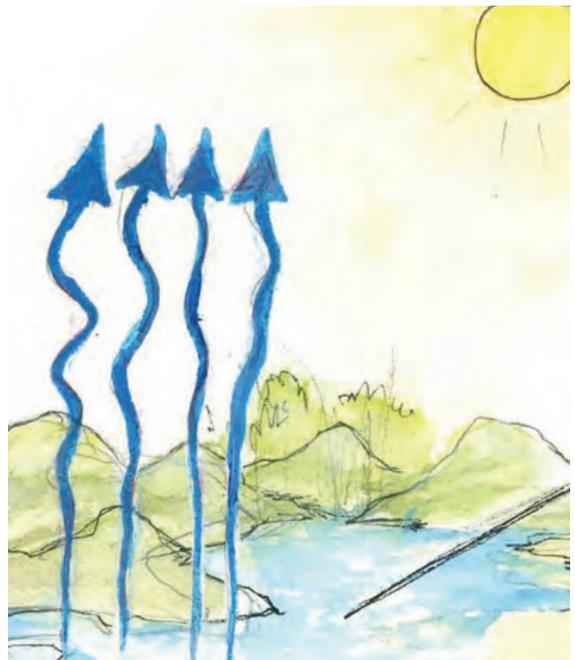
Larpu threw the piece of chalk in the air three times. She caught it three times. Then she cleared her throat. “Oh, my dear prefect, water is just a traveler. The sun is its careful driver.”

The whole class shouted, “Yes, Teacher Larpu, give us more.”

“Listen and I will. Water really has no starting point. But let us begin with the ocean. That is where most of the earth’s water stays.”

The whole class listened closely. Larpu was happy to say more.

In a strong voice, she said, “The sun heats up the mighty ocean. The mighty ocean breathes steamy air. With the sun’s heat, the rivers, the streams, and the puddles also send their steamy vapour above. Likewise, the fertile soil and green plants give off moisture.



The gusty winds carry all this steamy air up into the sky above. This process is called evaporation.

The hungry clouds swallow all the steamy air from the ocean, rivers, the soil and the plants. Brothers and sisters, boys and girls, the clouds then change the steamy air into liquid. Whenever the clouds belch, water falls from the clouds in the form of rain.

That process is called precipitation.”

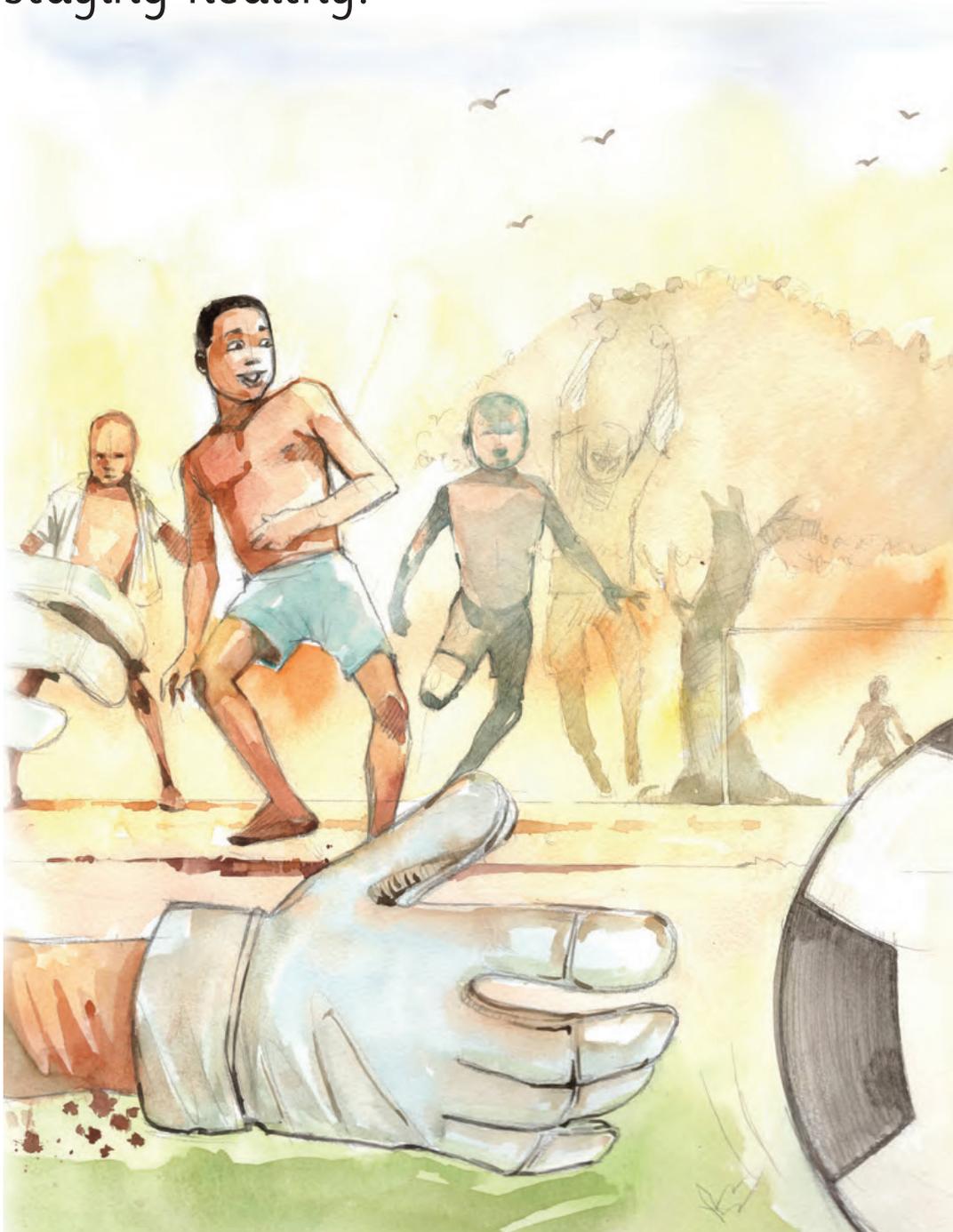
Larpu’s classmates were amazed. They stood and clapped for her. They sang her name, “Larpu, Larpu, Larpu.”

And do you know? Just then lightning sparked and thunder rumbled. And it rained and rained. Or, as Larpu would say, it precipitated.



CHAPTER 9: HEALTH

Themes this week include road safety and the importance of exercise to staying healthy.



Before You Cross The Road

by Mohamed Sheriff

Before you cross the road these days,
you'd better stop and look both ways.

So many things to make you worry:

Watch that bus! Do mind that lorry!

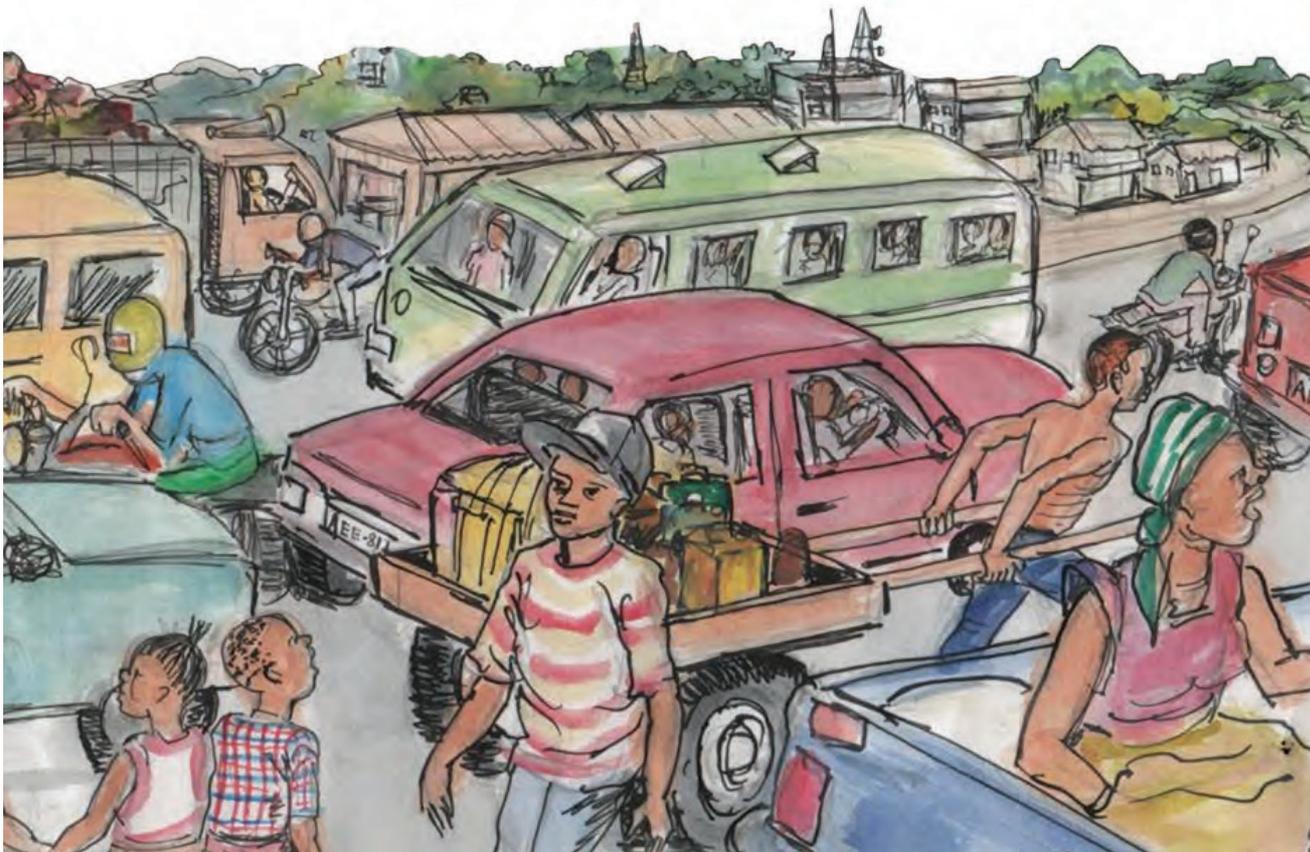
Bicycles and poda podas.

In between them, quick okadas!



Back when you were not yet born,
caring parents used to warn
their children all to heed this lesson:

Where there is no zebra crossing
Look left, look right, look left again.
And when the road is clear, quick
march!



At the zebra crossing, too,

The same thing you must always do:

Look left, look right, look left again.
And when the road is clear, quick
march!

So many things to make you worry:

Watch that bus! Do mind that lorry!
Bicycles and poda podas and in
between them, quick okadas!

Before you cross the road these days,
you'd better stop and look both ways!

Look left, look right, look left again.

And when the road is clear, quick march!



Mama's Hug

by T. Michael Weah

Palm butter, palm butter,
boiling in the pot –

what sweet smelling food is that!

Potato greens, potato greens, oh how
sweet, mixed with bonnie and dry meat.

Look in the pan and what do you see?

Fufu and dumboy and bennie seed.

Come with me to
my house.

After we eat,
we'll give Mama
a hug!



Catch Me

Run around

The lime tree,
The lime tree,
The lime tree.

Run around the lime tree,
try to catch me.

Run around

The palm tree,
The palm tree,
The palm tree.

Run around the palm tree,
try to catch me.





Sarah Stays Home, Part 3

A Covid-19 story

Do you remember Sarah and Abu? Today, they are taking a walk in their neighborhood. I see them wearing their masks and keeping their distance from others. Look, there's Sarah!

“Hello, dear readers. Several times, last week, I was feeling a bit sad. But I remembered the advice I had from Abu and Mama. Do you remember that advice? Did it help you too?”

Today I was walking with Abu. We were helping Mama. We fetched two baskets of fruit for her to bring to the market. As we were walking we saw Aunty Tina. I was afraid of her because we knew that her grown son, who was a driver, had Covid-19.”

Abu called to aunty, “Aunty Tina!”

“Oh, Aunty Tina, don't come near!” I shouted. “I'm afraid of you!”



“No, don’t worry. We will keep our distance, but it’s okay,” she said. “I have been in quarantine for more than two weeks. I am not sick.”

“What is quarantine?” I asked.

Aunty Tina smiled. “If there is a chance you are sick with Covid-19, or if you are near to someone who has it, then you must stay in your home for two weeks. Staying at home and being completely separate from other people is called quarantine. This helps to make sure we don’t spread it if we have it.”

Abu said, “Cousin James was sick with Covid-19. How is he?”

Aunty Tina said, “I was surprised that it was not too bad. He did get a fever and he coughed a lot. He also slept for most of the day and night. He was sick for about 10 days.”

I asked Aunty Tina, “Is he better now?”

“Yes,” said Aunty Tina “In fact, most people get well after being sick with Covid-19.”

Abu said, “Is everyone else in your home okay?”

Aunty Tina said, “Yes. We are happy about that. All of us had to stay in the house but none of us got sick because we were careful. We were all worried about Granny.”

“Why?” I asked.

“The Covid-19 virus is more dangerous for people who are older. It’s also dangerous for people who have medical issues. For example, it is dangerous for people with diabetes or heart problems.”

Abu said, “Oh! That’s another reason why we need to wear masks. We love our Granny!”

It’s a bit hard to talk through a mask. So I said loudly, “Aunty Tina?”

“Yes, Sarah,” she replied.



“Tell Cousin James, ‘Thank You’ for being brave. Tell him we love him and will see him soon. Tell him that we are going to do our best so that Granny and other vulnerable persons are safe.”

“I’ll tell him,” said Aunty Tina. “Thanks for taking care of each other, Sarah and Abu.”

CHAPTER 10: GOING TO SCHOOL

This week we are going to talk about going back to school. Many of the schools have closed but we are hopeful they will open again soon. If you are getting ready to go back to school, these stories will keep you inspired.



Morning

The sun comes up.

I feed my pup.

I pet my cat and get my cup.

I tip some milk out of the jug and do not
spill it on the rug!

The school is far.

I have to run to join
my friends.

Our school is fun!





Sarah, The Reporter

Meet Sarah, the reporter.

See her notebook. See her pencil. See her glasses. See her serious face.

“Excuse me,” Sarah says to a boy and a girl. “May I ask you some questions?”

“Of course,” says Adama. “Ask away.”

“First, what are your names?” asks Sarah.

“What?” asks Abu. “Sarah, I am your brother!”

“Hush!” whispers Adama. “Let’s play along. She is acting like a reporter.”

“Okay,” Abu whispers back.

“My name is Adama,” says Adama, “and this is my friend Abu.”

Sarah writes down their names.



“Thank you. What can two friends do together?” asks Sarah.

“We can walk home from school.”

Sarah writes that down. “Yes. And what else?” asks Sarah.

“We can study.”

Sarah writes that down. “Yes. anything else?”

“We can chase birds from the rice,” says Abu.

Sarah writes that down. “Yes. And what else?”

“We can carry water.”

“Anything else?” asks Sarah.

“We can carry firewood.”

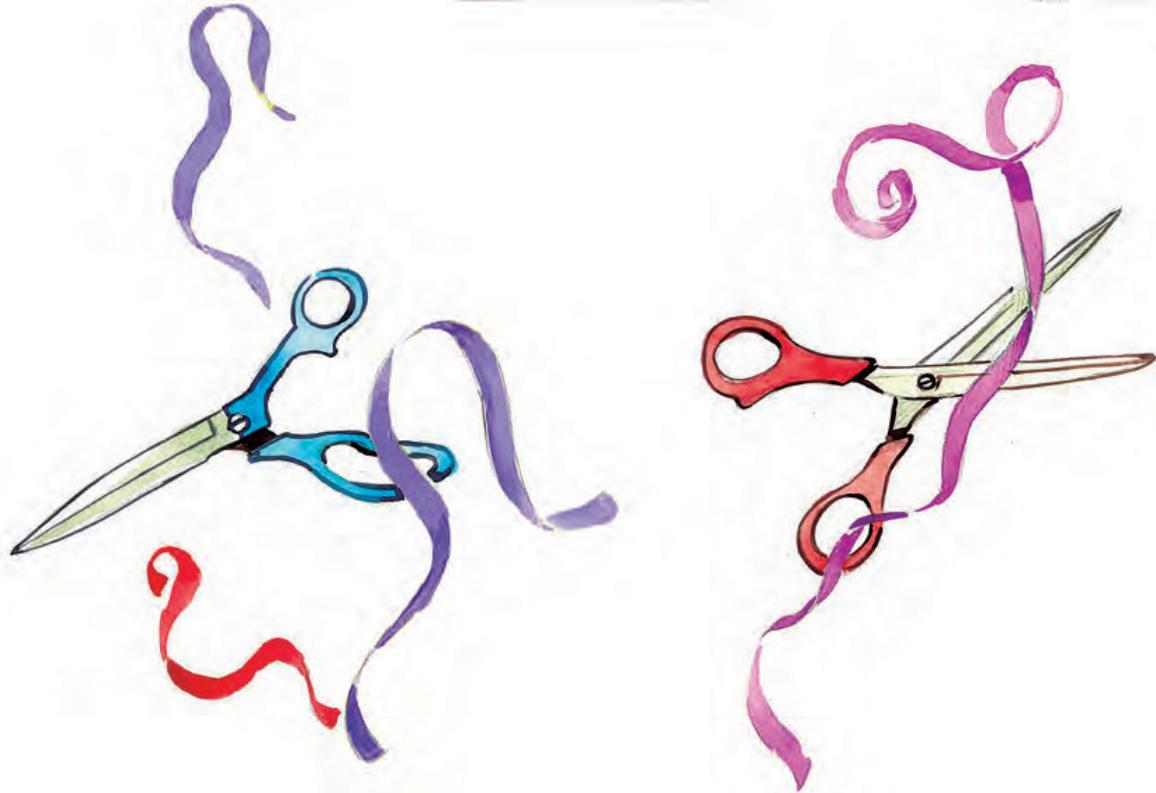
Sarah writes that down. “Yes. And what else?”

“We can tickle reporters!”

The two friends tickle Sarah. Then they all fall down laughing.



Getting Your Uniform



You give cloth to the tailor.

The tailor has a tape.

He measures you.

The tailor has chalk.

He draws on the cloth.

The tailor has scissors.

He cuts the cloth.



The tailor has a sewing machine.

He sews the cloth.

The tailor has a cell phone. He calls you.
“Come! Your uniform is ready.”



Zippy Zippers

Clever little zipper
joining left to right,
zipping sides together
holding them real tight.



Zipping up my zipper
running up my back,
zipping up the zipper
running up the track.



I'm zipping my trousers.
I'm zipping up my skirt.
I'm zipping up the zipper,
of the pockets on my shirt.

First Day of School

“Tomorrow I will go to school,” said Jenne. Jenne was 7.

“Why?” asked James. James was 5.

“Because I choose to learn,” said Jenne.

“What will you do there?” asked James.

“First, I will greet my friends,” said Jenne.

“And then what?” asked James.



“I will find my classroom,” said Jenne.

“And then what?” asked James.

“We will stand and say the pledge,” said Jenne.

“And then what?” asked James.

“Teacher will give us books. I like to read,” said Jenne.

“And then what?” asked James.

“We will do maths,” said Jenne. “I love numbers.”

“And then what?” asked James.

“We will play games outside,” said Jenne. “I love to run and shout with my friends.”

“And then what?” asked James

“We will eat lunch,” said Jenne. “We have good food at school.”

“And then what?” asked James.



“Teacher will read us a story,” said Jenne. “We will talk about what the story means.”

“I love stories,” said James.

Do you want to go to school, too, James?”

“Oh, yes,” said James. “I want to learn.”

“One day you will,” said Jenne.

Tina's Quest

By Bernadette Kimokai

It was Monday. Tina rose early and grabbed the family's big bucket.

Then she walked half an hour through the dark streets to the public tap. She passed three younger girls already coming back from the tap. They carried heavy water buckets on their heads.

She waited her turn, then filled her bucket. She could barely lift it onto her head. But she didn't spill a drop on the long walk home.



The sun rose. Tina dressed and hurried down the sidewalks to school. Tina thought about the math test that waited for her. She would do okay, she thought. She had studied well into the night.

Tina did well on the test. Mrs. Kamara, the teacher, named her class prefect for the month. That was a surprise! But here came another surprise. Her teacher asked, “Tina, what would you do for the class now that you are the class prefect? We are counting on your leadership.”

Tina stood speechless. The rest of the class murmured. Tina’s strength was in sports and not speech. And not leadership. Or so she thought. Leadership meant setting a path for her classmates to follow. Was she a leader?

Santigie, the hulky boy who sat behind Tina, pinched her just then.

“Ouch,” she cried.

“What is it?” Mrs. Kamara asked.

Before Tina could answer, Santigie stood. He asked to be excused to go out for a drink of water.

The tap was a long way from their classroom. Santigie was gone for twenty minutes. The children had to miss important parts of their lessons if they had to go out to drink water. They would have to review the lesson when they returned, if they were lucky.

Tina turned around to look for her friend Safire. Maybe Safire would have an idea for a project. But Safire shook her head. The end of school bell rang at that moment. Tina was relieved.

“Tina,” Mrs. Kamara said, “I hope by tomorrow you will have an idea for a class project.”

Tina nodded her head. She grabbed her bag. She ran out, shoving past her classmates.

Safire came puffing behind her. Tina reached the huge iron gates and waited for Safire.

“I am thirsty,” Safire complained.

“I also want to drink,” Tina said. The two walked two more blocks to the tap.

They waited ten minutes in line. Then they finally had long drinks and felt refreshed.



“This tap is too far from our classroom!” said Tina.

“You know what we should do?” Safire asked. Tina shook her head and waited for her friend’s idea.

“We should protest!” Safire said with anger in her voice.

“Why should we do that?” Tina asked. She thought of Safire holding a sign on a stick. She laughed.

“Let’s protest so they will put taps nearer to our classrooms!” said Safire.

“We don’t need to protest. But you have a point. Something needs to be done,” Tina replied.

“I tell you. Let’s do something fast,” said Safire.

The girls walked home. Tina was in deep thought. Safire was going on and on about the protests. Tina noticed the sizes and colors of the buckets the women and children carried on their heads as they fetched water.

Tina thought and thought. Then she had an idea.

Both girls lived in the same compound. They went into their different houses and set about their chores. Tina talked with her mother and she agreed to help with Tina’s idea.

The next day, Tina had a carefully washed bucket with its cover. She had some cups, too. They could fill and refill those. Tina was surprised to see Safire with a bucket as well.

“Thank you, Safire,” Tina said. Both girls walked to school feeling proud.

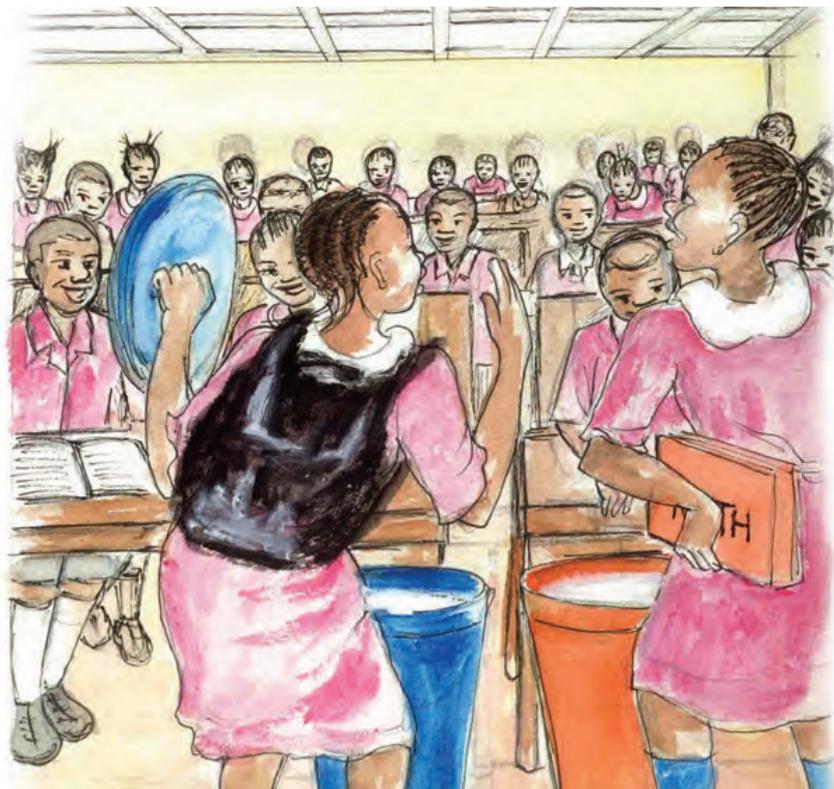
They carried their buckets with clean water into their classroom. Pupils and teachers watched them pass. Mrs. Kamara smiled as the girls walked in. They opened their

buckets and showed the sparkling clean water. Tina felt proud and light. She was ready to give her speech. Safire, her noble friend, stood by her side.

As Tina was about to speak, Santigie stood up. "I want a drink," he said. "Please," he added. All the pupils laughed.

Tina cleared her throat to speak. "Having clean, healthy, and safe drinking water helps us learn."

The class let out a roar of cheers. She passed out cups, and everyone had a cool drink of water.



The whole school heard about what Tina had done. Soon other pupils were taking turns washing and refilling buckets with water. They washed the cups, too. Every classroom had a bucket of clean water and they had clean cups for drinking it. No pupils missed a lesson to get a drink of water.

The next week, Tina and Safire walked to school together. “What should we do next?” Tina asked her friend.

What they did next is another story.



CHAPTER 11: WHAT DO YOU DO?

This week we are going to talk about the jobs that people do. Sometimes what you do is called a career. We will also talk about how women and men can do different types of jobs.



What Do You Do?

“We catch fish,” say the men.

“We clean fish,” say the women.

“We sweep the compound,” say the children.

“We grow rice,” say the women.

“We chase the birds,” say the children.

“We eat fish and rice,” say the family.





When You Grow Up

Will you be a doctor?

Will you make sick people well?

Will you be a policewoman?

Will you keep people safe?

Will you be a builder?



Will you make homes strong and dry?

Will you be a builder and make roads that go from town to town?



Will you be a plumber?

To make pipes to bring us water?



Will you be a farmer? and grow good food for us?



Will you be a fisherman and work out on the sea?





Will you be a teacher
and help the people
learn?

Will you be a leader
and make our lives
better?

What will you be?

Women And Men

Women cook breakfast.



And men fly planes.

Women raise children.

And men drive trains.





Men lead countries.

Women nurses tape sprains.



But wait—

Women can lead
countries, too.

And pilot airplanes.

Men can be nurses.



And women can
drive trains.

Men can cook good breakfast.

And care for children, too.

What future do you want to
have? The choice is up to you.



A New Cook-stove

My father saw a cook-stove.

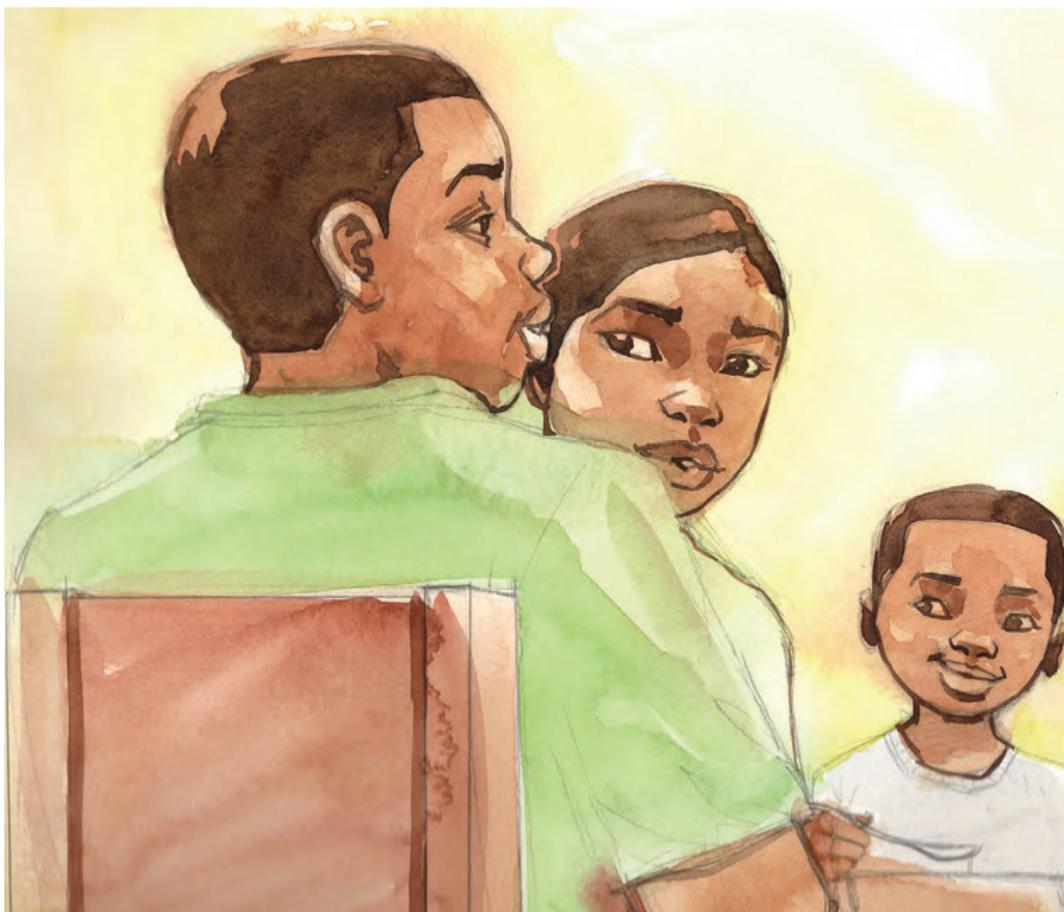
He bought one for my family.

He told me how they made it.

The tin is on the outside.

The clay is in the inside.





A tinsmith cuts the tin. He joins the parts.

He makes the shape of the stove.

He makes the outside of the cook-stove.

A potter gets clay.

She forms the wet clay. She dries it.

The potter puts the clay pot in a fire.

The fire makes the clay strong and hard.

The clay cools. Now, the inside of the cook-stove is ready.

The potter and tinsmith join the tin and the clay. This makes the cook-stove.

I am happy my father bought the cook-stove.

We use it every day.

In the morning mother makes pap.

In the evening we cook rice and soup.

How do you cook your food?



Bisi, The Detective

By Jacqueline Leigh

“This is my office. I am a detective. I can find anything. I can solve any case. They call me Bisi the Detective,” said Bisi.

“Bisi, did you wash your uniform today?” asked Mama.

“Yes, Mama.”

“Did you finish your homework?” asked Mama.



“Yes, Mama.”

“Someone will come soon. Somebody will need you to help them,” said Mama.

Just then a girl came running. Her clothes did not fit. She wore only one shoe. “Help! I can’t find it! Are you the detective?”



“Yes, I am. Did you lose your shoe?” asked Bisi.

“No, it is at home,” said the girl.

“Did you lose your belt?” asked Bisi.

“No, my belt is at home.”

“What did you lose?” asked Bisi.

“I can’t find Tiger. I always feed him after school. But today I can’t find him. He is gone!”

“Is Tiger a tiger?” asked Bisi.

“No, Tiger is my puppy,” said the girl. “And he is gone!” The girl started to cry.

“I’m sorry,” said Bisi. “Please don’t cry. We will find Tiger.”

“Thank you,” the girl sniffed.

“What does he look like?” asked Bisi.

“He’s fat. He is black and white. And he has a black tail and black feet,” answered the girl. She wiped her eyes.

“Do your friends know that you have a puppy?” asked Bisi.

“Everybody knows! He barks all the time,” said the girl.

“I can find him for you. Let’s go to your house,” said Bisi.

The two girls went to the house. Bisi looked everywhere. She looked under the tea bush. She looked under the pots in the kitchen. She looked in the wash yard. She looked behind the coal pot.

“Tiger is not in your compound. Maybe he took a walk. I am Bisi the Detective. I will find him for you.”

The two girls walked down the road.

“Ruff ruff! Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!” They heard a puppy bark.

“Tiger! That’s Tiger!” shouted the girl.

Bisi and the girl followed the sound to a compound. A boy looked out of the gate.

“Good morning. Do you have a puppy here?” asked Bisi.

“Yes, I have a puppy named Frisky,” answered the boy. He looked nervous.

“I don’t see it. Where is it?” asked Bisi.

“We tie him up. We don’t want him to run away. He’s very frisky,” said the boy.

“Can we see your puppy, please?” asked Bisi.

The boy led them back to the wash yard.

There was a fat puppy. The puppy was black and white. He had a black tail and black feet. The puppy barked happily and licked the girl’s hand.

“I am Bisi the Detective. This is not your puppy. This is her puppy,” said Bisi.

“No, it isn’t. This is my puppy,” said the boy.

“Puppies lick their owners. They like people who feed them. This puppy is licking her, not you. The puppy knows she feeds him, not you,” said Bisi.

The boy looked ashamed. “But I love puppies so much. I wanted one of my own,” he said sadly.

“Don’t worry. I am a detective. I will help you find a puppy of your own,” said Bisi.

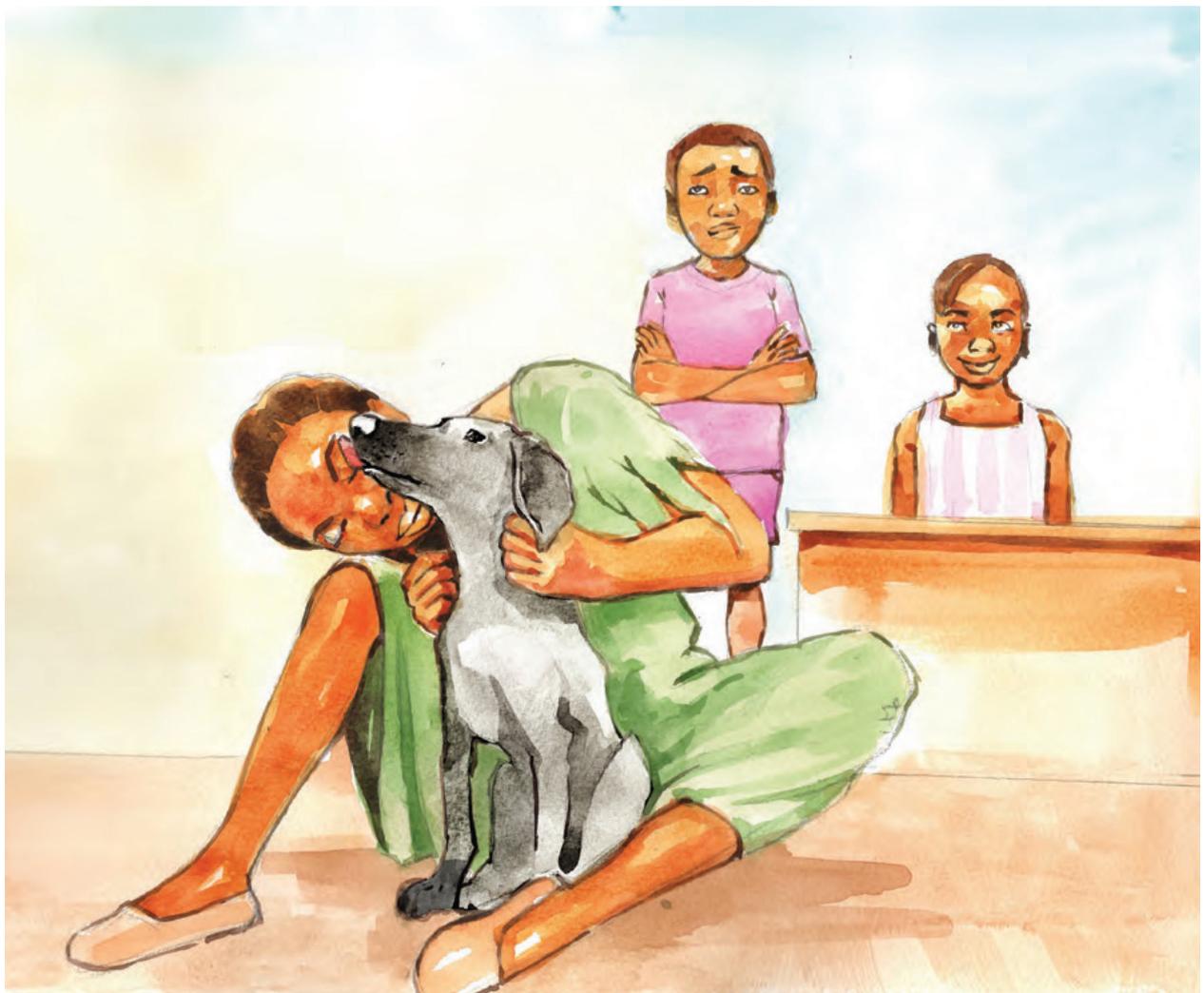
Bisi, the girl, and the puppy walked back to Bisi’s house.

“Bisi! Where have you been? I have been looking for you everywhere!” said her mother.

“I solved a case, Mama. I’m a detective,” said Bisi.

“Bisi found my puppy! She’s a very good detective,” said the happy girl.

“Ruff ruff!” said the puppy.



CHAPTER 12:

ANIMALS AROUND US

This week we are going to read and hear about animals. Animals live all around us, some animals are pets and are like our friends. We raise some animals for food, and some animals live in the wild. We'll read some fun stories and see how animals express themselves in different ways.



Why Dogs Run After Vehicles

By Alimamy Kargbo

A man had a shop. It was in a lorry park. The man also had a dog.

His dog guarded the shop at night.



One night, a thief came. He gave meat to the dog. The dog ate the meat.

While the dog was eating, the thief broke the door. The thief took four new tires.

In the morning, the man came. He saw the broken door. He saw that four tires were missing.



He said to the dog, “Go and find my tires. When you find them, I will feed you again.”

The dog called all of his dog friends. “Please, help me find the tires,” he said.

The dogs agreed to help him.

Since that time, dogs chase vehicles.

They are looking for the tires.



Sharks

(Non fiction)

Sharks are scary. Some sharks attack humans, but most kinds do not. Thirty-eight kinds of sharks are dangerous to people. Those are sharks that swim in shallow water. That is where people swim, too. But there are more than 500 other kinds of sharks that people do not often meet.

Sharks can be big. A whale shark can be 12 meters long. Most sharks are the same size as people. But a pale cat shark is only 20 centimeters. It would almost fit in your hand.

Do not try to hold a shark, though. Sharks have many teeth. Most sharks have 3,000 teeth. When one tooth falls out, another takes its place.

Sharks can bend because they have no bones. A shark's whole body is made

of cartilage. You have some cartilage in your nose. Cartilage is flexible and durable, but it is lighter than bones.

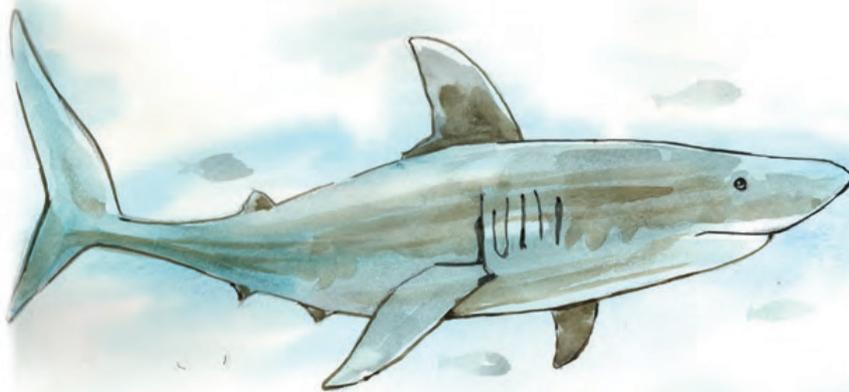
Sharks can see well. They can see in the dark better than a cat.

Sharks can smell well. They can smell 10,000 times better than you.

Sharks can feel tiny movements. They can feel a fish's heart beat through the water.

Some sharks swim fast. A greatwhite shark swims 40 kilometers per hour. That is as fast as an okada!

Not all sharks are scary. But it is best to stay away from them.



The Pygmy Hippopotamus

Deep in the forest of Sierra Leone and Liberia, lives the stout Pygmy Hippopotamus.

The Pygmy Hippopotamus stays near a river.

It digs a deep hole.

There, it stands in the cool, muddy water.

It usually stands quietly for the whole day.

The Pygmy Hippopotamus is huge.

It is six feet long and three feet high.

It weighs 600 pounds.

That is the size of four big men put together.

The Pygmy Hippopotamus has an interesting face.

It has little ears.

It has small eyes. But, it has big nostrils!

The pygmy hippopotamus eats at night.

It finds fallen fruit in the dark forest. It eats grass.

It is not easy to see a pygmy hippo because they like to be alone.

They are quiet animals.

There are only a few left in the wild.

Perhaps one day you will see one!



Bees Are Builders

(non fiction)

Bees live in hives. Together they build a honeycomb. A honeycomb is made of wax. Each worker bee makes wax in her body. She makes a tiny amount. Her wax is as small as a pin head.

Together the bees build a cell. The cell has six sides. The shape is called a hexagon. This is the best shape for a cell. The shape makes the most cells with the least wax. Many cells make a comb. Most hives have 100,000 cells.

Some cells are for the bees' eggs. The queen bee lays the eggs. She lays 2,000 eggs a day!

Baby bees hatch from the eggs. Most bees are worker bees and they are females. Some bees are drones.

The drones are males and they stay in the hive.

The worker bees go out to collect nectar. They also make honey. They store the honey in other cells.

One worker bee can only make a little bit of honey. But many thousands make a lot of honey. A whole hive can make 40 kilograms of honey in a year.

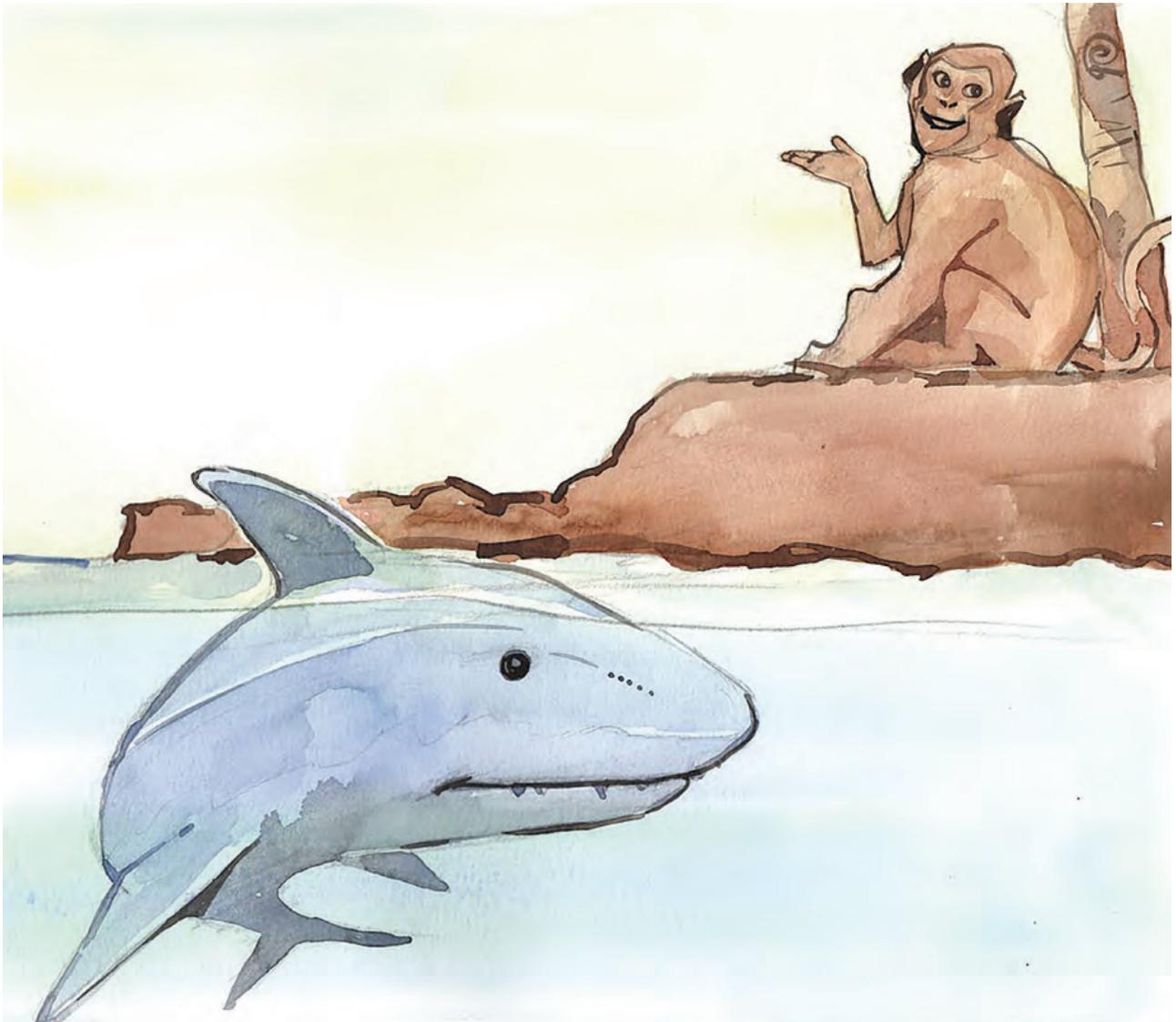


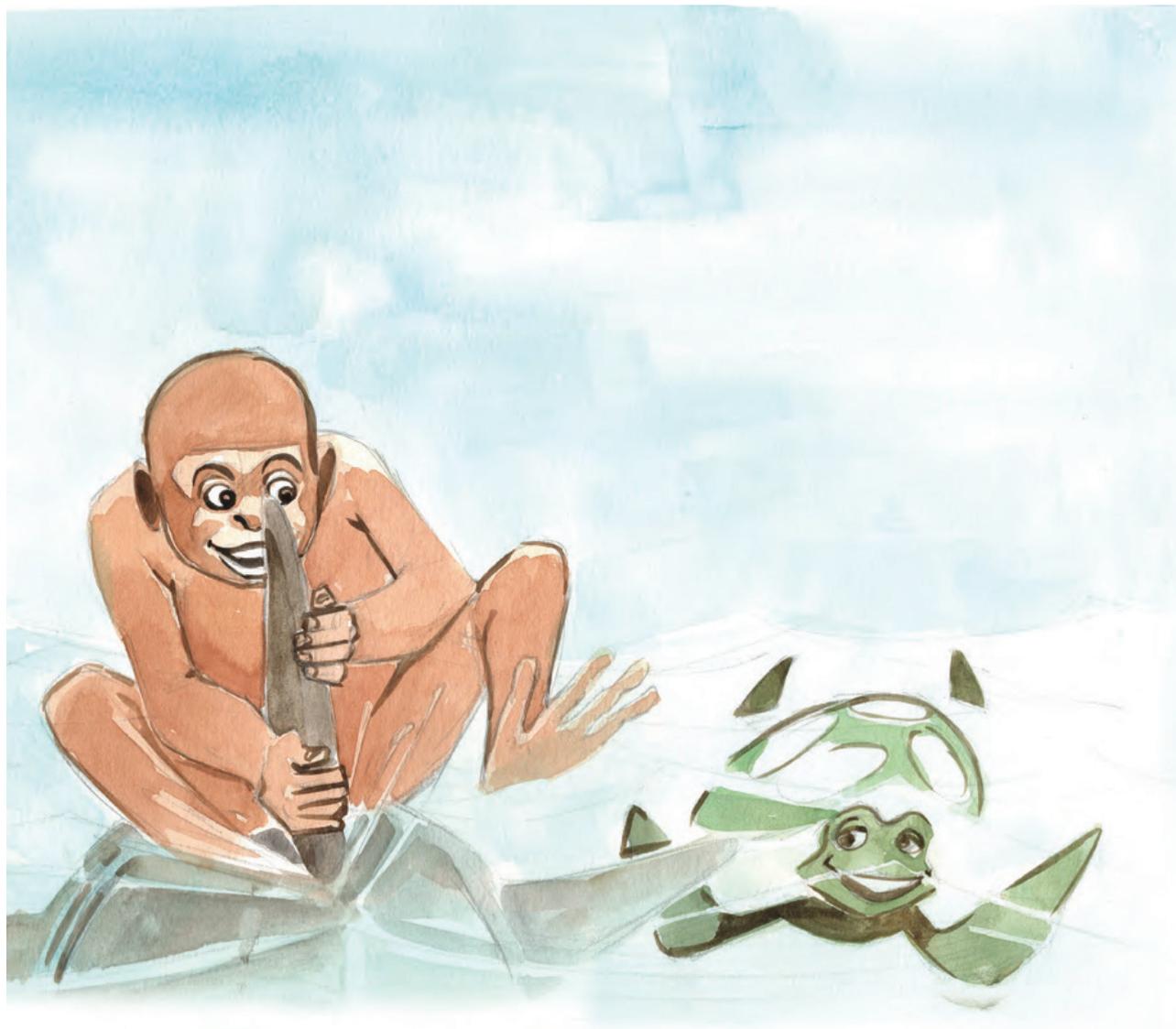
Monkey And Shark

Retold by Moses Kainwo

Monkey met Shark on the beach.

“Come ride with me,” said Shark. “We will have some fun.”





Monkey got on Shark's back.

They surfed a wave.

They passed a turtle.

They went far from land.

"Where do we go?" asked Monkey.

"To my town," said Shark.

“Why?” asked Monkey.

“To meet my king,” said Shark. “He has a crown of gold.”

They rode far out to sea.

Then Shark said, “Monkey, our king is ill. He needs a gift.”

“What gift?” asked Monkey.



“A monkey’s heart,” said Shark, “will make him well.”

“Oh,” said Monkey. “Don’t you know? We monkeys do not go to sea with our hearts. I left mine in the tree.”

“What tree?” asked Shark.

“The tree by the beach,” said Monkey. “Take me there and I will get it for you.”

“Oh, sure. Let’s go back to the beach,” said Shark.

He swam fast. Shark took Monkey back to the beach.

Monkey jumped off Shark.

“Wait here,” said Monkey. I will be right back.”

Monkey climbed high in a tree.

Shark waited.

But do you know what?

Monkey did not come down again.

